

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

March 26, 2023

Welcome to worship this morning!

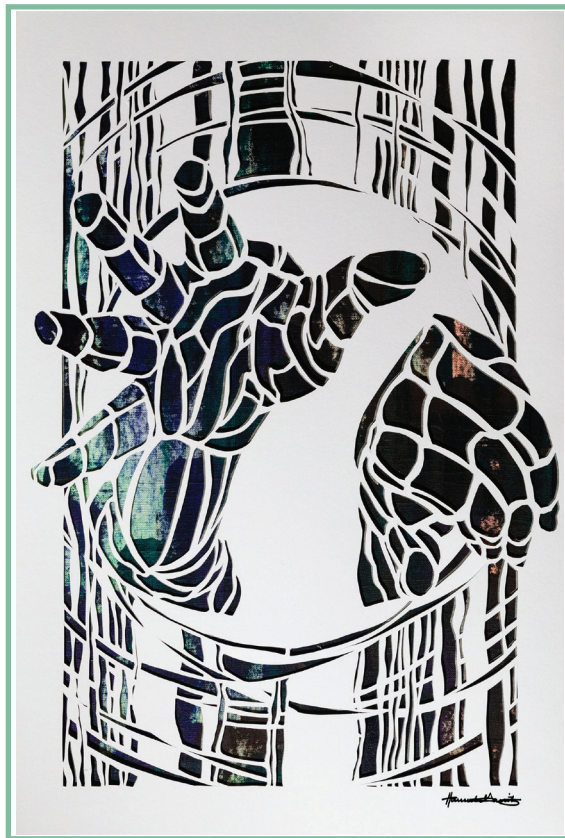
Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able. Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

With many thanks and used with permission:

Words for Worship "Seeking." Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed |

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Paraphrased Lord's Prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

Have you ever felt grief lie heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace. Let us bring our full selves to this prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth,

I confess: I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

I forget that you, too, have grieved for someone you loved dearly.

Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.

**Forgive me for all the times I create distance,
imagining that you could never feel what I feel.**

Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, or giving in to indifference or despair, and God would still love. So hear and believe this good news: We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God, who brings life out of death. We are not alone.

SUNG RESPONSE

The Lone Wild Bird

tune: Prospect, GTG 807

**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.
And I am thine, I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come and rest in me.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator God, why is bad news so loud?

In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps, and anxiety,
it often feels like suffering has a microphone.

How do we hear you? How do we find you?

How do we know that these bones can live?

Speak to us in your still, small voice

and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day.

Help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone,

but to the hope that you breathe into every word. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay

sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 130

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.

Holy One, hear our voice! Let your ears be attentive to our cry.

If you, O God, kept account of our sins, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore we worship you.

We wait for the Holy One; in God's word we hope.

**Our soul waits for God more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the dawn.**

O people, hope in God! For with God there is steadfast love;
with God there is great power to redeem.

It is you, God, who redeems us! We thank you, and we worship.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
by Lloyd Larson

Glenna Muir

GOSPEL READING

John 11

SERMON

Jesus Wept

Pastor Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

all verses

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God loves us—

God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

We believe that God does not give up on us—

breathing new life into tired bones.

We believe that God returns to us—

always seeking us when we are lost.

We believe that God holds hope for us—

so we hold onto hope as well.

We believe, help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Impose your reign that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today this one day's bread.

Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who do wrong against us.

Save us from our temptations and keep us from doing evil,

For the Realm, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

all verses



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Our cover art is “unbind him” by Hannah Garrity, Inspired by John 11:1-45
Paper lace over oil paint on linen

As I met with this text, I was drawn to Jesus’ call for Lazarus to be unbound. To represent the fabrics used in preparation for burial, I wrapped a canvas in linen. You’re not really supposed to do that. The canvas was already stretched and gessoed. It was ready to resist the oil paint medium I was applying. However, the texture of the binding cloth matters for this tactile text. I began to scrape the paint onto the woven strands. The linen fabric absorbed the paint as I scraped it on with a palette knife. In the final image, the linen shows through the paint and the paper lace design, representing the bindings. Jesus’ call for unbinding also includes the community. The foreshortened hands of the community, tasked with unbinding his body, reach in toward Lazarus. They reach through the concentric binding lines so that he can go free. Can these bones live? In the strength of community, they can. The community made up of Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans, and others all joined one another at the tomb to grieve for Lazarus that day. They came to support Mary and Martha. Jesus arrives as the community mourns together. Jesus cries in his grief. Their collective tears create the backdrop for this paper lace design. This diverse and neighborly community is who Jesus calls on to do the unbinding. Jesus makes sure that the community knows about this miracle so that they can share the news. Can these bones live? Lazarus lives, and Jesus’ miracle lives on in the telling. —Hannah Garrity

| Church Staff | | Serving in Worship Today | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Jan Wiersma | Liturgist | Jane Burgstaler |
| Choir Director | Meg Cain | Special Music | Glenna Muir |
| Handbell Director | Judy Kereakos | IT Support | Louis Bouchard |
| Pianist | Glenna Muir | | |
| Custodian | Nancy Sanford | | |
| Office Manager | Stephanie Pasch | | |

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, March 26

- 9:00 am Deacons Meeting
9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online
10:45 am Book Discussion Group
2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, March 27

- 6:00 pm Building Usage: Med City Tai Chi

Tuesday, March 28

- 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)
7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, March 29

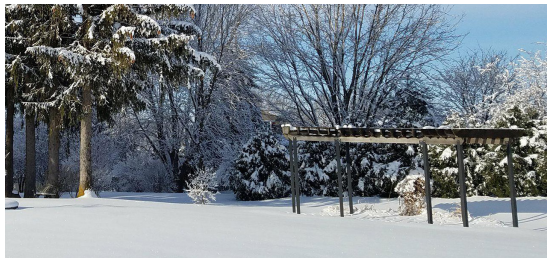
- 6:30 am Prayer Group at Church of Christ
12:00 pm Conference Call *
6:00 pm Confirmation
6:45 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, March 30

- 5:30 pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday

- 9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online**
10:45 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny
Connie Holst
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Shannon Cisewski
Ron Murray
Dick and Nancy Massaro
Nellie Brovold's grandma, Hilda
The Hall Family

*To be added to the prayer list,
please contact Pastor Jan at
pastor@cpcrochester.org.
For emergency pastoral care,
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.*

Online Worship:

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #