

April 16, 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).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, your living presence goes always before us;

Your life lives in us, pouring forth a fountain of joy.

Because you are with us, we have nothing to fear.

We praise you, for you never abandon your people.

And so we gather in the sunshine of your love today,

We rejoice in the light that leads us out of sorrow;

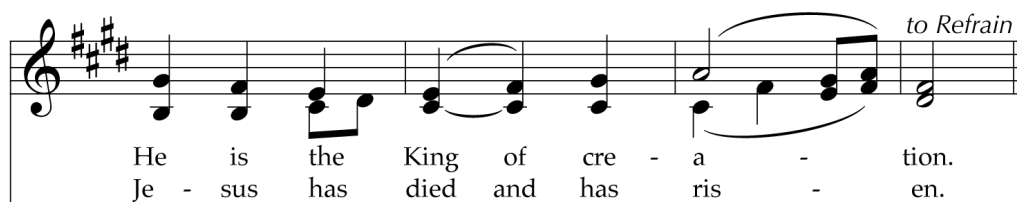
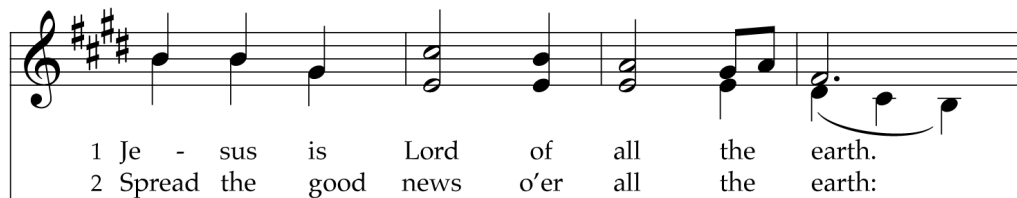
We overflow with gratitude for your goodness to us.

Query: What are you grateful for today?

*OPENING HYMN 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks!

vs. 1 & 2



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God our protector,

**we confess that we have not always looked to you for refuge,
but have found security in power, possessions, or prestige.**

God our maker,

**We confess that we have prided ourselves
on your gifts of talents, skills, and learning.**

God our savior,

**we confess that we have put our faith in flimsy goals,
and reached for prizes that never satisfy our ambition.**

Hear our sorrow and lead us in a better way.

Silence for reflection

Our loving God,

with the compassion Jesus showed Thomas,
accepts your missteps, blesses your searching,
forgives your failures, arouses your curiosity,
and leads you always in a more perfect way.

Thanks be to God for this new day!

SUNG RESPONSE

This Is the Day

This is the day– **This is the day–**

That the Lord hath made! **That the Lord hath made.**

We will rejoice– **We will rejoice–**

And be glad in it! **And be glad in it.**

This is the day that the Lord hath made!

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day– **This is the day**

That the Lord hath made.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Life, in the beginning you breathed your spirit into the human form and we came to life. On the day Jesus rose he breathed his spirit into the disciples and sent them forth in love. Now with every breath we take you breathe into us your love. We breathe deeply of your Spirit that we may come to life anew in you. Breathe on us, Breath of God. **Amen**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Beloved, "You are my Life;

I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, I delight in them.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

I will not share in their offerings or even say their names aloud.

You, Holy One, are my chosen way:

you show me my path and hold my future.

Surely the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a wonderful inheritance.

I bless the Teacher who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep your face always before me;

because you are at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to despair, or let your faithful one see death.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hold On

Mark , Meg and Judy

a Traditional Spiritual arranged by Dan Davison

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

Mary shared her experience of the risen Christ with the disciples on Easter morning.

When it was evening on that same day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of their own people, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Without seeing, without touching

Pastor Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 288

Spirit of the Living God

sing twice

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in the God of Easter morning
Who awakes us from our darkest dreams
And leads us into the light of a new day,
Who meets our pessimism
With stunning hope of angelic proclamation.
I believe in the God of Easter Day
Who beats us to the obstacles in our lives
And empties the dark tomb for us;
Who appears in surprising ways when we least expect it;
Walking with us on our detours.
I believe in the God of Easter evening
Who breaks into our closets and prisons,
Bringing peace and crushing our fear.
I believe in the risen Lord who meets us
with wounds on his hands and feet;
Who grants us his spirit, sending us out
to bring the peace of forgiveness to the world.
Amen.**

By Andreas Wagner, <http://modernliturgist.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SH-Paper-Alternative-Creeds-in-Liturgical-Worship.pdf>

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

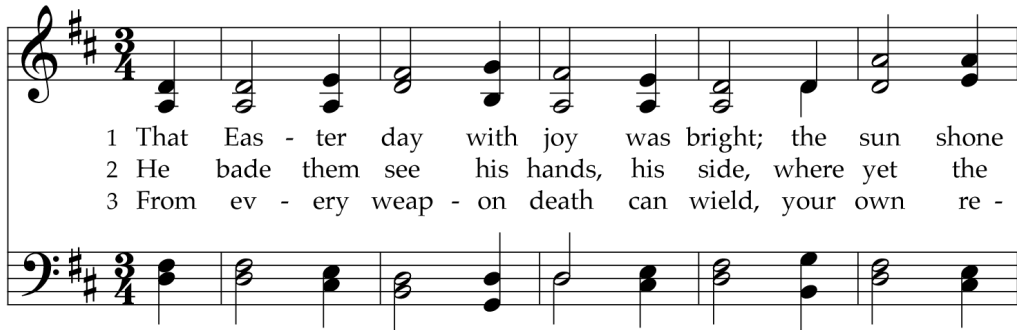
**Our Mother and Father in heaven, holy be your name.
Impose your reign that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today this one day's bread.
Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who do wrong against us.
Save us from our temptations and keep us from doing evil,
For the Realm, the power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE


*CLOSING HYMN GTG 254

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

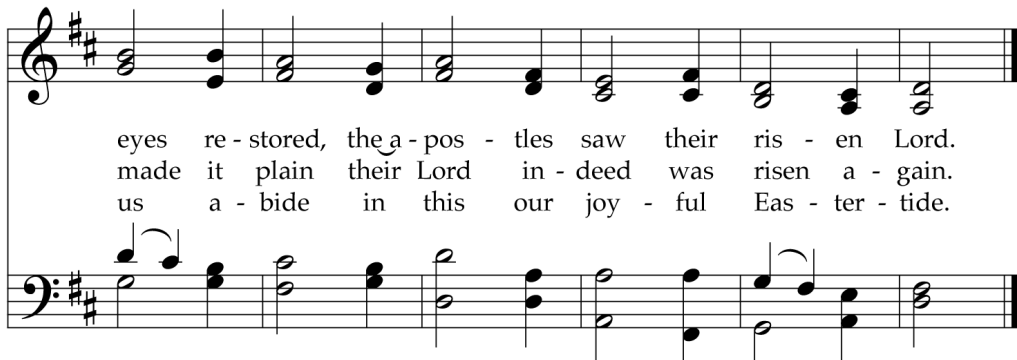
all verses



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -



out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Let the power of resurrection
raise in you the strength of love,
the steadfastness of compassion,
the wisdom of forgiveness,
the confidence of Christ,
the glory of God.

Go in peace to love and live in the power of the Risen Christ.
Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Some parts of this service were used by permission of Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
from his web resource, *Unfolding Light*.

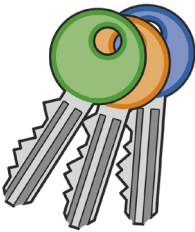
Church Staff		Serving in Worship Tonight	
Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma	Liturgist	Sherrie Wilson
Choir Director	Meg Cain	Special Music	Mark Neville, Meg Cain and Judy Kereakos
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos	IT Support	Louis Bouchard
Pianist	Glenna Muir		
Custodian	Nancy Sanford		
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch		

Easter Season: gather in gratitude!

“If the only prayer you ever said was “Thank you!” that would be enough.” Meister Eckhardt.

Beginning on Easter Sunday, join in the celebration of the resurrection, continuing through Pentecost, May 28, with the theme of **Gratitude**. We rejoice in God’s great gifts to us of renewal and rebirth in Jesus Christ, in this loving and deeply connected family of faith, and in the various ministries now coming to a close of Meg Cain, Music Director; Judy Kereakos, Handbell Director, and Pastor Jan Wiersma.

Gratefully, we look forward to new leadership yet to be determined!



If you stop at church during the week, don’t be surprised that the doors are locked. Children’s Place families have requested that the doors are locked whenever children are in the building. There are doorbells at both main doors.

CPC will host a conversation with Sarah Augustine, co-founder and Director of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition on Monday, April 17, from 3-5 pm.

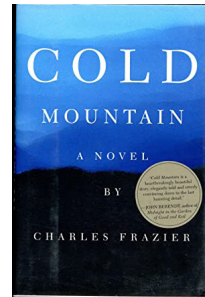
The Doctrine of Discovery refers to a principle in public international law under which, when a nation “discovers” land, it acquires rights on that land. In fact, the doctrine was used to legitimize the colonization and theft of already inhabited lands outside of Europe.



The event was arranged by allies supporting Makoce Ikikcupi (Land Recovery) whose goal is the return of land to Indigenous people of Minnesota. This is accomplished through donations and other means of buying back property for which they were never compensated by the US government.

The congregation is welcome to attend the event. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is not required, but to assure adequate seating is provided, please inform Pastor Jan if you wish to attend. You may also attend online using the Sunday worship link.

The April selection for the Book Discussion Group is *Cold Mountain* by Jonathan Frazier. The group will meet on April 23 after worship. “[T]his extraordinary tale of a soldier’s perilous journey back to his beloved at the end of the Civil War is at once an enthralling adventure, a stirring love story, and a luminous evocation of a vanished land. Adapted into an Oscar-nominated movie starring Nicole Kidman and Jude Law, and a 2015 opera co-commissioned between Santa Fe Opera, Opera Philadelphia and the Minnesota Opera, *Cold Mountain* portrays an era that continues to speak eloquently to our time.”



Read the book! Join in on the discussion! All are welcome!



A farewell party for Pastor Jan Wiersma, Meg Cain and Judy Kereakos is scheduled for Sunday, June 4, after the church service.

The event will honor the many years these three have served Community Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be served. Watch for more information about the work they have done.

Gratitude: The first, best, most life-giving response to God

For all that has been—-thanks.

For all that shall be—-yes.

Dag Hammarskjöld

*Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you
kneel to say your nightly prayer.*

*And let faith be the bridge you build to over-
come evil and welcome good.*

Maya Angelou

“Where one finds religion, one finds gratitude. As long as people have believed in God, they have sought ways to express gratitude and thanksgiving to this God, the ultimate giver. The great religious traditions teach that gratitude is a hallmark of spiritual maturity and a quality to be cultivated through spiritual disciplines.... The German theologian Karl Barth once said that the basic human response to God is not fear, not guilt, but thanks-giving. ‘What else can we say to what God gives us but to stammer praise?’ Barth asked.” (Robert Emmons, from his book, *Thanks! How the science of gratitude can make you happier*, 2007)

Throughout this season of Easter, our common goal is to cultivate gratitude, individually, as household units, and as a family of faith. We will sing, speak, and pray our praise together and, if you choose, at home.

Each week, in your bulletin, you will receive a thought-provoking quote about gratefulness as a way of being. You are invited to ponder that quote throughout the week and, if you care to do so, share the fruit of your thoughtfulness during the “query” time the next Sunday. (Speaking aloud is optional, as always!)



Practices you may wish to try during Easter season and beyond

Keep a gratitude journal: This is the most commonly recommended practice I know. Variations are infinite, but all involve taking a few minutes each day to write down three or five things for which you have felt grateful that day. The key is to express different things daily; this will help you recognize new blessings.

Set aside a time for gratitude daily: If writing isn't your thing, why not set your watch to alert you at the same time each day. When it pings or chimes or honks (your preference, and depending on your watch's IQ), take five minutes to say thank you for the gifts of the past 24 hours. Again, try not to repeat!

Write a thank you note every day: Take a moment to write a note to a server in a restaurant, a salesperson or checkout person at a store, a child, a friend, the firefighters in the station nearest you, the law enforcement officer you read about in the paper, your child, your spouse, your caregiver—literally anyone. Don't just say, "Thank you;" tell them how they made a difference in your day.

An add-on: bring the fire fighters or other helpers a treat.

Write a longer, more thoughtful letter: Think of someone—a teacher, mentor, or friend—whom you have never thanked properly. Take at least 30 minutes and write at least 250 words. Then, rather than simply mail the letter, ask if you can visit. Then read it to them aloud before giving it to them. If they are distant, read it to them over the phone.

Write a personal psalm of praise to God: Many of the psalms could serve as a model, including Psalm 16. Make it specific: where do you recognize God's movement in your life, past, present, and even future? Pray this psalm during your daily devotions, share it with a dear personal friend, or with the congregation.

Is there a practice not mentioned here that you're particularly fond of? Please share it with the rest of us!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, April 16

9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, April 17

3:00 pm Doctrine of Discovery Conversation

Tuesday, April 18

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, April 19

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, April 20

12:00 pm Newsletter Items Due

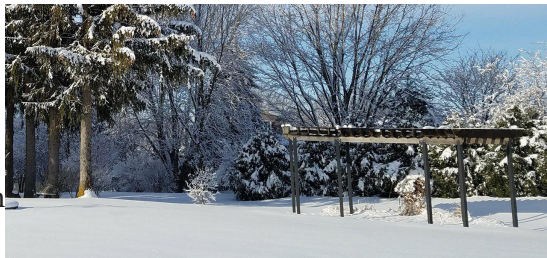
5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, April 23

9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online

10:40 am Book Discussion Group

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

Online Worship:

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

*** Wednesday's Conference Call**

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

*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.*