

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded



**April 23, 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

The land holds us.

**Sky breathes in us.**

Trees stand around us like ancestors.

**Birds sing to us like friends.**

Rivers flow with tears of joy.

**Living beings feed us and walk with us.**

In the end the earth receives us.

**All Creation is God's love poured out;  
we receive it with joy, care for it with gratitude,  
and in unity with it, we worship God. Alleluia!**

*Query: What did you learn about gratitude this week?*

### \*OPENING HYMN 17

### Sing Praise to God, You Heavens

*vs. 1 and 3*

1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin - ing light!  
3 Sing prais - es, all you crea - tures in whom God takes de - light:

Sing, plan - ets in your or - bits; sing, stars all burn - ing bright!  
you whales that roam the o - ceans, you ea - gles in your flight!

Sing praise, you winds and tem - pests, you driv - ing rain and snow!  
 Sing praise, you sheep on hill - sides, you cat - tle in the stall!

Sing, clouds that race and bil - low and shad - ow earth be - low!  
 Though word - less, sing your prais - es to God who made you all!

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Creator God, we confess we have not honored your Creation;  
 we have not loved it as you have loved us.**

**We have thought ourselves separate, not part of your Creation.**

**Forgive our ignorance and arrogance, our greed and destructiveness.**

**Bring us again into the oneness of your Creation;**

**forgive us, heal our fears and transform our desires,**

**and shepherd us to be good stewards of the gift of life.**

*Silence for reflection*

Do not be afraid but give thanks that God's Spirit sings through all Creation. The Maker desires peace and harmony among all creatures. Your sins are forgiven; in true repentance, go and make right what has been broken. **Amen.**

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

Eternal God, in the beginning was the Word, and all things were created in the Word. All Creation is your Word made flesh. Speak your Word to us now, that our flesh may become your Word. We open our hearts to your presence and your grace. **Amen.**

### RESPONSIVE READING                      Genesis 1:1-25

In the beginning when God began creating the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

*Then God said,*

**'Let there be light.'**

And there was light

**And God saw that the light was good.**

*God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*And God said,*

**'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'**

And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

*And God said,*

**'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.'**

And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.

**And God saw that it was good.**

*Then God said,*

**'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.'**

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.

**And God saw that it was good.**

*And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.*

*And God said,*

**‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, to give light upon the earth.’**

And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

**And God saw that it was good.**

*And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.*

*And God said,*

**‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’**

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.

**And God saw that it was good.**

*God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.*

*And God said,*

**‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’**

And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

**And God saw that it was good.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Simple Gifts*

CPC Choir

American Shaker Song, Joseph Bruckett, arr. by Adam Paltrowitz

GOSPEL READING

John 1: 1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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

SERMON

*Christ in Creation*

Pastor Jan Wiersma

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 247

Now the Green Blade Rises

*vs. 1, 2, and 3*

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Journey into Wholeness*, by Christine Sine

**We believe in God above us,  
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in Christ beside us,**

**Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.**

**We believe in Spirit deep within us,  
Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.**

**We believe in God's resurrection created world,**

**Where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.**

**We believe in God above, beside, within,**

**God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three,**

**We believe in God.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Mother, our Father, giver of life, Holiness of Presence;  
may our hearts always bow to you.**

**Your Realm break forth, your delight blossom among us,  
making this earth your heaven.**

**Give us each moment our life, our breath.**

**Free us from being judged, as we free others from our judgments.**

**Guide us safely past our desires and attachments,  
and rescue us from the power of evil.**

**For the world is yours; the only real power is yours;**

**Creation's splendor is yours, in this present moment, and in eternity. Amen.**

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*all verses*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus  
which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee;  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.**



**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**

<b>Church Staff</b>		<b>Serving in Worship Today</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma	Liturgist	Sherrie Wilson
Choir Director	Meg Cain	Special Music	CPC Choir
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos	IT Support	Louis Bouchard
Pianist	Glenna Muir		
Custodian	Nancy Sanford		
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch		

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

# Gage East Library Grand Opening

Thursday,  
April 27th, 2023  
3:00 to 6:00 pm

Come to the Family Community Room to learn about our new library, make a book bag for checking out books, and meet our library volunteers!



The April selection for the Book Discussion Group is *Cold Mountain* by Jonathan Frazier. The group will meet today 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!**



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.



**Save  
the  
Date!**

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 NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

LOOK FOR SOMETHING IN NATURE THAT...

- MAKES YOU SMILE
- IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR
- WOULD MAKE A FRIEND HAPPY
- MAKES A PRETTY SOUND
- YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR
- IS FUN TO PLAY WITH
- SMELLS LOVELY
- IS INTERESTING TO LOOK AT
- FEELS SOFT TO TOUCH
- IS FUN TO CLIMB ON
- YOU WOULD LIKE TO DRAW A PICTURE OF
- CAN BE USED TO BUILD WITH
- IS FUN TO WATCH MOVE AROUND
- IS BEAUTIFUL
- YOU COULD USE TO MAKE A HEART SHAPE
- IS THE PERFECT RESTING SPOT

ALLNATURALADVENTURES.COM

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

**Sunday, April 23**

**9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online**

10:40 am Book Discussion Group

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Tuesday, April 25**

10:00 am PW Bible Study

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Committee Meetings (v)

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

**Wednesday, April 26**

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

6:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm CPC Choir

**Thursday, April 27**

12:00 pm Newsletter Items Due

3:00 pm Gage East Library Opening

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Sunday, April 30**

**9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online**

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  
The Hall Family  
Larse and June Pillers

## 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](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org).*

*For emergency pastoral care,  
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.*