

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



May 14, 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

God, in you we live and move and have our being.

We are your children, and we praise you.

You do not leave us orphaned, but Christ comes to us and dwells with us.

We are your Beloved, and we thank you.

You are in us, and we are in you, and your Spirit works through us.

We are your Body, and we worship you.

Query: What did you learn from last week's gratitude saying?

Or, what part of the changing seasons are you grateful for today?

Or, express gratitude to or for your mother.

*OPENING HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

vs. 1, 3, 5

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;

for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God, we wake every morning immersed in your loving care;

But so often we forget to give thanks for this gift.

Jesus, you promise that loving you leads us to do what is right;

But we scatter our love foolishly, unhelpfully, on other things .

Spirit, you advocate for us constantly, stirring us to better, bolder life.

Yet we settle for our daily grind, ignoring the future you envision for us.

Forgive us for our failure to see you in every aspect of our lives.

Silence for reflection

People of God, the voice within you calling you to reach beyond your own imagining is the voice of God, Spirit, defending you and encouraging you. God's justice is mercy and God's judgment is love. Open your selves to receive forgiveness and give thanks! 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

Spirit of truth, we search for you. Spirit of love, we long for you. Spirit of life, we hunger for your grace. You who dwell within us, speak to us. You in whom we live and move and have our being, speak to us. Beyond words, enfolded deep in the mystery in which we dwell, speak to us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 17.22-31

The Apostle Paul visits Athens and "speaks to their condition."

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

'Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

RESPONSIVE READING 1 Peter 3:8, 9, 13-22

Dearly Beloved, siblings in Christ, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

**By the Spirit in us we will not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse;
but, repay with a blessing. For blessing we were called.**

Those who desire life and desire to see good days,
let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit.

**By the Spirit in us we will turn away from evil and do good;
we will seek peace and pursue it.**

For the eyes of God are on you, and God's ears are open to your prayer.

By the Spirit in us we will abide with God.

If you suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.

Do not fear what others fear, and do not be intimidated,
but in your hearts sanctify Christ as your Chief, your Power, your Leader.

**By the Spirit in us we are ready to account for our hope;
ready to do it with gentleness and reverence.**

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned,
those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

We would rather suffer for doing good than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

**He was put to death in the body, but made alive in the spirit
and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities,
and powers made subject to him. Alleluia!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

This Little Light of Mine
by Joel Raney

Quinn and Meg Cain

GOSPEL READING

John 14:15-21

John records Jesus' long farewell speech to his disciples. This is a small part of it.

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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

SERMON

Not a command but a promise

Pastor Jan

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.

THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

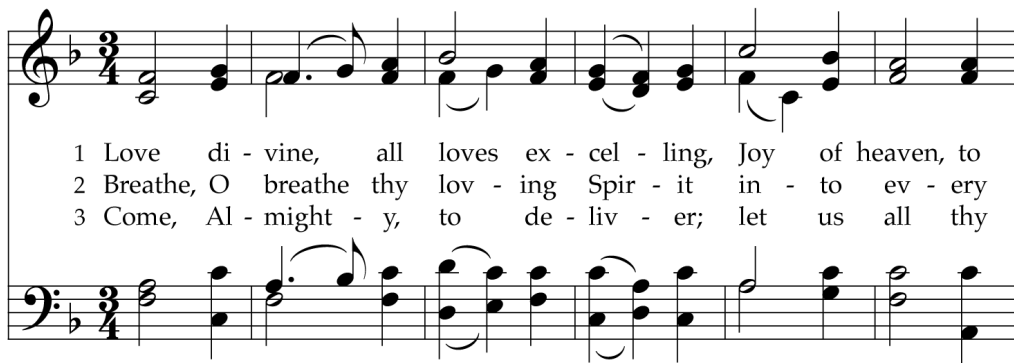
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

vs. 1-3



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.

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COMMUNAL BLESSING AND CHARGE

People are invited to remain standing, joining hands in a circle, and bless one another with the Song of Hope (GTG 765)

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
 Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,
 Bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace;
 Singing, share our joy with all.
 Working for a world that's new,
 Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

POSTLUDE

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

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

The original Mothers' Day Proclamation, Julia Ward Howe 1870

“Arise, then... women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.

“From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence vindicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel...to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.”

~ Julia Ward Howe (abbreviated)



The Annual Spring Fling returns with a fabulous Low Country Boil!

Come ready to do some clean up and fix up projects around Community Presbyterian Church. We will do a little work and share in a specially prepared meal by Aaron Simms.

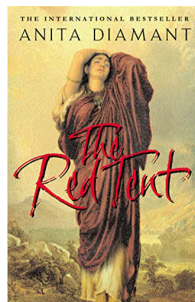
May 19, 5-8 pm

Dinner provided

Many hands make light work!

Sign up in the narthex
or by contacting the church office.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will meet on May 21st after worship. The selection for May is The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. All are welcome to join in the discussion!

Join us

FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR

REV. JAN WIERSMA
JUDY KEREAKOS AND
MEG CAIN

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH
WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM
LUNCHEON FOLLOWING WORSHIP

*Sign up in the
narthex or by
contacting the
office!*

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

RSVP to the office
office@cpcrochester.org or 507-280-9291

In lieu of a gift, please consider bringing a card or sharing a memory. Pastor Jan has suggested donations to the Gage East library fund would also be welcome.

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Sunday, May 14

9:30 am Worship- Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, May 15

10:00 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, May 16

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, May 17

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, May 18

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Friday, May 19

5:00 pm Spring Fling

Sunday, May 21

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
The Hall Family
Larse and June Pillers

*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 #