

For thou art my rock and my fortress;  
therefore for thy name's sake  
lead me, and guide me.

**Psalm 31:3**



**May 7, 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 your house there are many dwelling places—  
room for all your Beloved.

**We belong to you.**

Christ, you prepare a place for us and come for us and take us into yourself.

**We come to you.**

We are in you, and you are in us; we are one body.

**We worship you. Alleluia!**

*Query: What gifts of God are you grateful for today?*

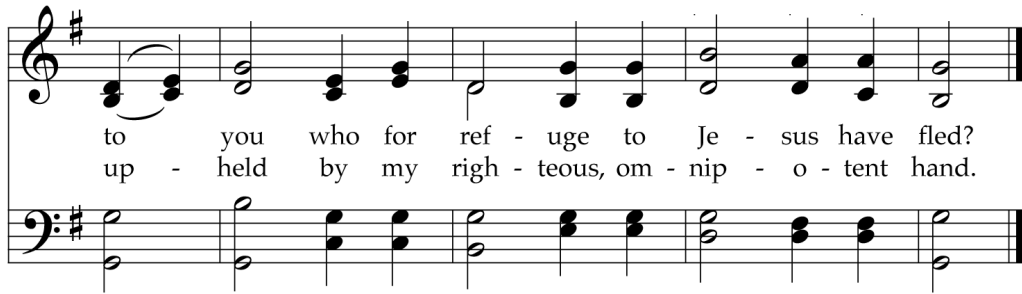
### \*OPENING HYMN 463

### How Firm a Foundation

*vs. 1 and 2*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Holy God, you claim us as beloved children,

**you bring us into life, and make us lively temples of love.**

But we forget we bear the mark of your grace

**and act as if you have no claim on our lives.**

You call us to the risky work of justice and peace,

**but we default to what is comfortable and safe.**

**Forgive us when we forget that you are our rock and refuge;**

**pardon our complacency, let us begin again.**

God's love is infinite and eternal; it is for you. No matter where you have been or what you have done, you will not be put to shame. Receive the mercy of the one who calls you to be God's people. In Christ, you are forgiven. **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

Gracious God, you have given us your Word in Creation, and in Scripture. You speak your living Word to us in our hearts, and in the presence of the risen Christ with us. Help us to listen, to hear, and to be made anew. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 7.55-60

*Stephen was not only the first martyr but one of the first deacons in the early church. He is described as being “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, grace and power,” who did great signs and wonders. But it was his unashamed preaching of the truth of Jesus that aroused the wrath of his own people. Before his final sermon recounting the history of salvation, they saw that “his face was like the face of an angel.”*

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

RESPONSIVE READING from Psalm 31

In you, O Beloved, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;

**in your righteousness deliver me.**

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

**Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name’s sake lead me and guide me,

**take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

**you have redeemed me, my salvation, my faithful God.**

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 2 .2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,  
‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’,  
and, ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.  
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order  
that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his  
marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Will the Circle See the Light?*  
Traditional; arr. Meg Cain

CPC Choir

GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-7

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also  
in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have  
told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will  
come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And  
you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not  
know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way,  
and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know  
me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

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

SERMON

*No Lonely Stones*

Pastor Jan

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Many Rooms

*tune: Finlandia, GTG 819*

**We give you thanks, O loving God, Creator,  
for in your house are many rooms to dwell.  
Your Christ prepares a place for all your people,  
where we belong, are made one, and made well.  
Give us your life; make us your holy people,  
to shine with light, and your good news to tell.**

**We give you thanks, O Loving Christ, companion,  
You are the truth, you are the life, the way.  
For when we share in love's divine communion,  
we are by grace alive in every way.  
Grant us to love, with you in blessed union,  
love be our faith, our truth, our life, our way.**

#### THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come  
to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAVERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,  
hear our prayer.

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

Loving God, at your table Christ prepares a place for us.

**We come to your table, grateful for our belonging.**

In your house there are many rooms.

**In your house we have many roommates,  
siblings who are also God's beloved people.**

We come as one with all creation as we sing together.

SANCTUS GTG 552

Holy, Holy, Holy



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the



pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Christ, you are the way, the truth, the life.

**We come to feast on the truth, to follow the way, to embody the life.**

**You draw us to yourself, so that where you are, we may be.**

As we break this bread and share this cup

we remember his death and resurrection, until he comes again.

**God, you are in Christ, and Christ is in you,  
and by your Spirit we are in Christ.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## 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.**

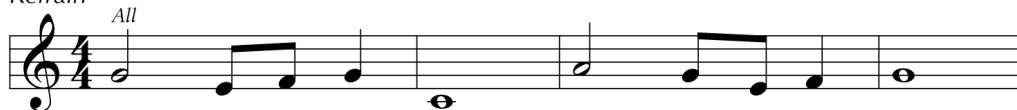
## THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

*For communion, gluten free bread and grape juice are served for all who partake.*

*Please take and eat the bread as it is served, and then as a sign of unity, hold the cup until all are served so that we might partake together.*

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION GTG 531    Seed, Scattered and Sown    vs. 1 & 3

*Refrain*



Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;



bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the liv - ing bread of God.



Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is



shared by all, the liv - ing cup, the liv - ing bread of God.



1 Is not the bread we break a shar - ing in our Lord?  
3 As wheat up - on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,





Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out-poured?  
so may the church of God be gath-ered in - to one.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You are our way, our truth, our life. By these gifts, we pray that you will live in us, for the sake of the healing of the world. Send us out in the name of Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 361

O Christ, the Great Foundation

*vs. 1 and 2*



1 O Christ, the great foun-da-tion on which your peo-ple stand  
2 Bap-tized in one con-fes-sion, one church in all the earth,



to preach your true sal-va-tion in ev-ery age and land:  
we bear our Lord's im-pres-sion, the sign of sec-ond birth:



pour out your Ho-ly Spir-it to make us strong and pure,  
one ho-ly peo-ple gath-ered in love be-yond our own,



to keep the faith un-bro-ken as long as worlds en-dure.  
by grace we were in-vit-ed; by grace we make you known.

## COMMUNAL BLESSING AND CHARGE

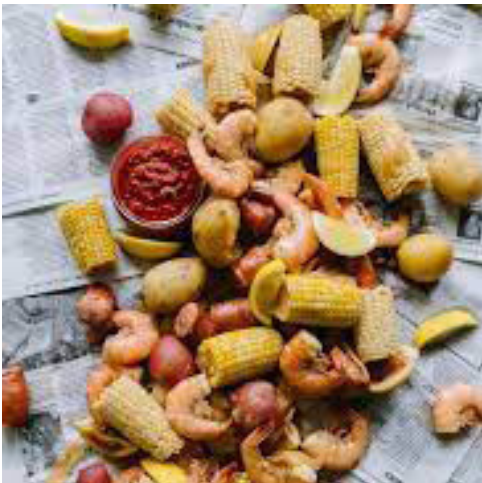
*People are invited to remain standing, joining hands in a circle, and bless one another with the Song of Hope (GTG 765)*

**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

Church Staff		Serving in Worship Today	
Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma	Liturgist	
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*.



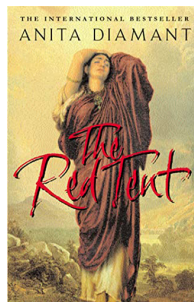
## **The Annual Spring Fling returns with a fabulous Low Country Boil!**

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



SAVE THE  
DATE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH  
WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

LUNCHEON FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

RSVP to the office  
[office@cpcrochester.org](mailto: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.

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

**Sunday, May 7**

**9:30 am**    **Worship with Communion**  
**Onsite and Online**

**2:30 pm**    Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Tuesday, May 9**

**12:00 pm**    Bulletin Information Due

**6:30 pm**    Building and Grounds Committee

**7:00 pm**    Building Use: Mission Aid Network

**Wednesday, May 10**

**6:30 am**    Prayer Group at CPC

**12:00 pm**    Conference Call \*

**6:00 pm**    Confirmation

**7:00 pm**    CPC Choir

**Thursday, May 11**

**5:30 pm**    Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Sunday, May 14**

**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 #

*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.*