

“O WOMAN,” JESUS ANSWERED,  
“YOUR FAITH IS GREAT! LET IT BE  
DONE FOR YOU AS YOU DESIRE.”  
AND HER DAUGHTER WAS HEALED  
FROM THAT VERY HOUR.

*- MATTHEW 15:28*

**August 20, 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

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come.

**God will bring us to the holy mountain,  
a house of prayer for all people.**

**God gathers all the outcasts together,  
and makes us joyful!**

### \*OPENING HYMN GTG 301

### Let Us Build a House

*verses 1, 4, 5*



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
bring an end to fear and dan - ger: all are wel - come;  
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We call to God, saying, "Have mercy on us!"

We call to God, saying, "Lord, help us!"

We call to God even in the midst of our sin,  
knowing that God is gracious and just.

**God of all goodness,**

**We do not want to face all that is in our own hearts.**

**We want to focus on the good -**

**on the love, the compassion, the care -**

**and ignore the bad -**

**the greed, the envy, the cruelty.**

**But before you, God,**

**we must face it.**

**Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts.**

**Cleanse us. Help us face our own demons,**

**and empower us to live a Christlike life.**

We have been disobedient to God,  
but we have received mercy.

**Let us live our lives as those transformed**

**by the abundant mercy of God!**

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the fire of your Spirit open our hearts and minds to your word, O God. Help us to hear your voice and follow your paths all the days of our lives. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? ...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Glenna Muir

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15: 21-28 .

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Elaine Siemsen

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

verses 1, 2

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

## 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 300

We Are One in the Spirit



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

*Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

## BLESSING AND CHARGE

Friends, there is work to be done. Jesus still sends us out into the world, to love and serve as the body of Christ. You don't need to pack a bag or bring a change of clothes; God will provide all we need.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us go into the world with God's liberating Word on our lips, until all are free, and all creation reconciled as one beloved community.

**Amen.**

## POSTLUDE



Today, we welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Siemsen to Community Presbyterian Church. Elaine Siemsen is a retired pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She has served congregations in Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. She has taught at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota; and St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. She is the author of *Constructing a North American Theology through the Work of Joseph Sittler: Embodied Words* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2003). Her work has been published in *The Lutheran*, *Lutheran Partners*, *Dialog*, and *Currents in Theology and Mission*. Elaine and her husband, Dennis, both originally from Chicago, Illinois, live in Rochester, Minnesota. Elaine will be with us again next week, after which she will embark on the El Camino de Santiago in Spain.

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

**Sunday, August 20, 2023**

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

12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Tuesday, August 22**

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

**Wednesday, August 23**

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

**Thursday, August 24**

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Sunday, August 27**

**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

*To be added to the prayer list,  
please contact the office via email:  
[office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).*

*Emergency Pastoral Support:  
Rev. Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254*

### Online Worship:

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

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

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

### Church Staff

Pianist

Custodian

Office Manager

Glenna Muir

Nancy Sanford

Stephanie Pasch

### Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher

Liturgist

IT Support

Rev. Dr. Elaine Siemsen

Dave Copeland

Bruce Felger