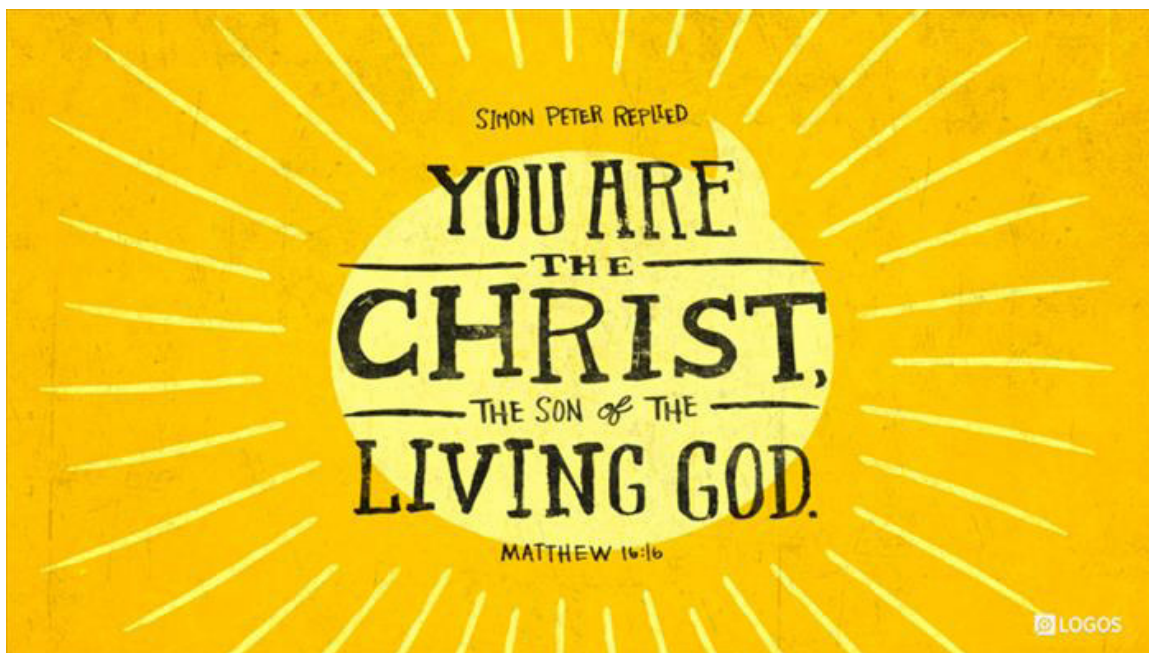


August 27, 2023



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as a body of Christ.

**We are many individuals,
but together we are one.**

Each of us has our own gifts,
our own calling, our own role,

but all of us proclaim

Jesus Christ is the Messiah!

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my
 him be found, dressed in his righteous-ness a-lone, fault-

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
 an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all
 less to stand be-fore the throne.

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The Apostle Paul writes, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” In sober judgment and humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another:

**Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people.
We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and
respond to your saving work in the world.
We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true,
and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear.
Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it.
Forgive us when we do not respond to your call.
Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations.
Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Friends, hear the good news: Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mysterious God, we trust that you are at work among us, even when you are hidden from our sight. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our arms to embrace your truth, as it comes to us in your Word. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 124

If it were not for You, O Beloved,
You who make all things new,
**Fear and chaos would reign in every hearth;
in You will I trust forever.**

When doubt threatens to overwhelm and separate me, when anger makes me blind,
**Then You, O Merciful One, are ever-ready
to Awaken the holy, the sacred within me;
Then do your Living Streams of Grace enfold me.**

Blessed are You, who are a very Presence to us, a comfort to troubled hearts!
Grant us the strength of eagle wings, the courage to soar to new heights!
Break within us the bonds of fear that we may live with love!

Our guidance comes from You, O Counselor,
Blessed are You, O Giver of Life!
Beloved of my heart!

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 750 Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.

Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours
Oh, vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is

through God who loves us. us.

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 539

We Will Go Out with Joy



1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
2 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
3 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.



We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Go forth from this place, to speak truth to power, to love and serve the least of these, and to seek God's Spirit and embody that Spirit, in the places where God seems absent.

And as you go, may God's creative energy animate you, may Christ's liberating mercy surround you, and may the Holy Spirit's subversive presence empower you, now and forever more, **Amen.**

POSTLUDE



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).

Today, we once again 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 embark on the El Camino de Santiago in Spain in the coming weeks. We wish her a safe and meaningful journey!

Parts of the liturgy was written by Ginna Bairby and provided for free distribution. The Psalm is from Nan Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*.

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, August 27

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Tuesday, August 29

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, August 30

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

Thursday, August 31

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Saturday, September 2

11:00 am Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, September 3

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Online Worship:

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

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

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



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@cpchester.org.*

Emergency Pastoral Support:

Rev. Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254

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

Mark Neville

Louis Bouchard