



**September 3, 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

We gather hoping to see God,

**here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.**

We can see God

**when we show one another honor,**

when we pursue hospitality to strangers,

**when we live in harmony with one another,**

when we rejoice in hope.

**Let us worship the visible God amongst us.**

### \*OPENING HYMN GTG 406

### We Are Standing on Holy Ground



We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,



and I know that there are an - gels all a -



round; let us praise Je - sus



now; we are stand - ing in his



pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another, or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together:

**God of love,**

**you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are,**

**you tell us to bless one another,**

**you encourage us to do good.**

**But we have not listened to your words,**

**instead of loving we have practiced hatred,**

**instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing,**

**instead of doing good, we have sought to get even.**

**Forgive us for giving up.**

**Give us grace to try again,**

**and encouragement to make your ways, our ways.**

**We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.**

God's love for us is genuine. When we need it the most, God's grace washes over us seeping into the cracks of our brokenness and saturating our thirsty hearts. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Holy Creator, you spoke all of creation into being, we ask that you keep speaking to us now. Speak to us as we read Scripture, that we might hear your voice ringing clear and concise through the many voices around us. Speak to us, that we might hear and understand. **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone

evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

#### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

*Cross Carrying*

Rev. Chris Miller

#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

*verses 1-3*



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

## 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

God is 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.**  
 Eternal God, we thank you for the universe you create.

**We thank you for your presence in our lives.**  
 We thank you for the gift of salvation.

**We thank you for your will for justice,  
 and your liberation of the oppressed.**  
 We thank you for the gift of Jesus.

**Holy Mystery of Love, with all creation we sing your praise!**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!

Blessed are all who come in your name,  
and blessed is Jesus, your Christ, Word made flesh, love made real.

**Conceived and led by your Spirit, he taught and healed,  
fed the hungry, and honored the outcast.**

Infinite love in mortal form, he was crucified;  
but infinitely alive with the Spirit, he was raised.

**He comes among us to renew your Covenant to be with us always in love.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ,  
one in your grace, radiant with your love,  
and empowered by your Spirit for the sake of the healing of the world.  
Mother and Father, Son, and Spirit, we thank you and bless you.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and 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 525    Let Us Break Bread Together    vs 1,2

1 Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)  
2 Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees. (on our knees)  
let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees. (on our knees)

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our Mother, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Blessing and honor and glory to you, holy, holy, holy Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 306

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

verses 1,3,4

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
3 We share our mutual woes; our mutual  
4 When we are called to part, it gives us

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
in - ward pain; but we shall still be

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.



## BLESSING AND CHARGE

Remember, as our time of worship draws to a close and our lives of service begin anew, go out into the world in peace. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, love everyone. That God's light and love, justice and joy, might be for you and all people everywhere. Amen. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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Today, we welcome Rev. Chris Miller to CPC. Rev. Chris Miller was born in Davenport, Iowa, and grew up in parsonages as a preacher's kid (PK). He graduated from Carthage College (BA, sociology, '71) and then spent three years as a parish youth worker in Appleton, Wisconsin. He attended the ELCA Lutheran seminary in Chicago (LSTC, '75-'79) and was ordained on March 25, 1979. Rev. Miller had served various parishes in Wisconsin, including Kenosha, Rice Lake / Brill, Mineral Point, and Loganville; also served parishes in Iowa City, IA, & Blue Springs, MO.

Rev. Miller retired after thirty-five years in active parish ministry, and 5 years of Interim pastoral work in the Southeast Minnesota Synod. He and his wife, Donna, moved to Rochester in July 2015. Since then he has done Interim work in 3 parishes, and supply preached in approximately 35 different churches in the ELCA's SE MN Synod.

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Parts of the liturgy written by Molly Spangler and provided for free distribution.

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*Worship in the garden on September 10th! Brass, Etc! will join us again for this special worship service. (picture from September 2022). Bring your lawn chair and join in on the fun!*



# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group meets on September 17, after worship. The group will discuss *The Woman Who Could Not Be Silenced*, by Kate Moore. The October selection, *All Creatures Great and Small*, by James Harriot, will be available on September 17.

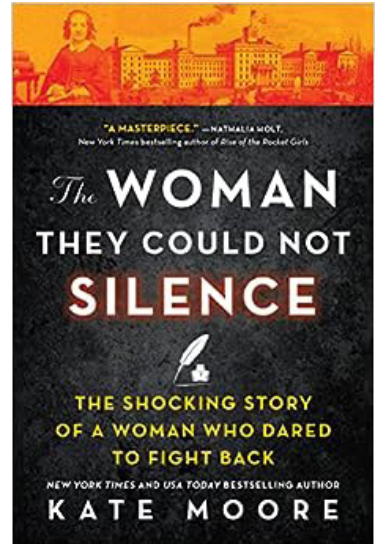
From Amazon:

“From the New York Times, USA Today, and Wall Street Journal bestselling author of *The Radium Girls* comes another dark and dramatic but ultimately uplifting tale of a forgotten woman hero whose inspirational journey sparked lasting change for women’s rights and exposed injustices that still resonate today.

“Discover the powerful and untold true story of resilience, advocacy, and the fight for women’s rights in *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by acclaimed author Kate Moore. This gripping and meticulously researched narrative shines a light on the remarkable journey of Elizabeth Packard, a pioneering woman whose indomitable spirit challenged the confines of her time.”

*The Woman They Could Not Silence* is a triumphant tale of resilience, challenging the status quo, and the enduring power of the human spirit. Moore’s meticulous research and rich historical detail bring Elizabeth Packard’s story to life, painting a vivid portrait of a woman who defied society’s expectations and paved the way for future generations.

**Join in on the discussion on September 17th! All are welcome!**





Love

must be sincere.  
Hate what is evil;  
cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## Sunday, September 3

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

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Monday, September 4

Labor Day - Office Closed

## Tuesday, September 5

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

## Wednesday, September 6

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

## Thursday, September 7

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Sunday, September 10

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

**Outdoors, weather permitting**

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@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.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. Chris Miller

Peggy McCarty

Louis Bouchard