



**September 17, 2023**

**Welcome to worship this morning!**

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, \* indicates please stand, if able.

Bathrooms are located inside down the hall to the right, 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

*Morning Has Broken*

Glenna Muir

BUNESSAN. Traditional Gaelic melody, Arr. by Larry Shackley

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm 103:1-4*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

**Bless God's holy name.**

God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love.

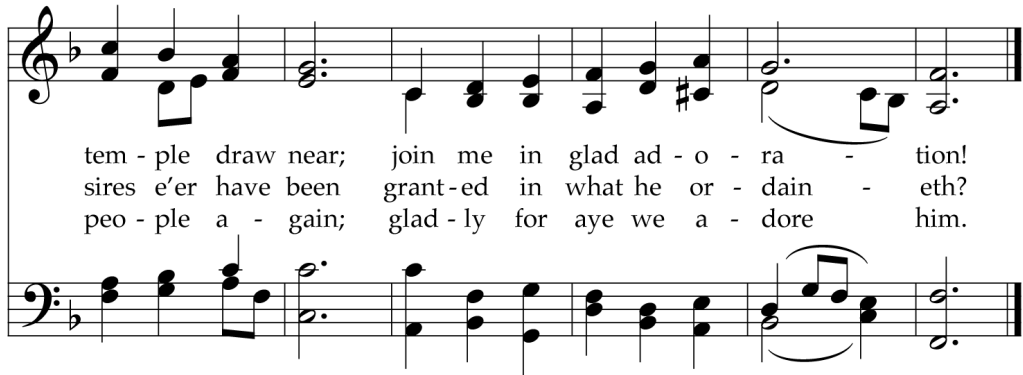
**Bless God's holy name.**

\*OPENING HYMN GTG 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

**Nurturing God,**

**like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children.**

**But division and disagreement plague us.**

**We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen.**

**We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it.**

**Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.**

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. **Amen.**

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. **Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*All Through the Night*

Glenna Muir

AR HYD Y NOS. Traditional Welsh melody, Arr. by Larry Shackley

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And

in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Carla Nelson

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

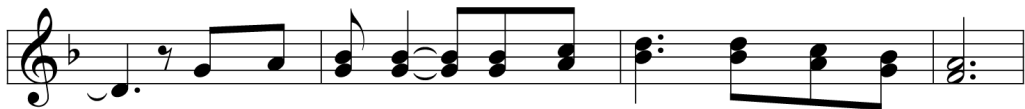
\*HYMN OF THE DAY 762

When the Poor Ones

verses 1,3,4



1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang - ers,  
3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,  
4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,



when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,  
when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,  
when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,



when the crip - pled in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,  
when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,  
when each strang - er that we meet is called a neigh - bor,



then we know that God still goes that road with us,



then we know that God still goes that road with us.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

**hear our prayer.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

You are the first, the last, the everything in between,  
we lift our praise and our prayers up to you,  
because we know that you have been listening since the first voice in the  
garden, and we trust that you listen still.

**hallowed be thy name,**

Yours is the name that is above every name,  
yours is the name spoken in all languages,  
yours is the name that echoes across all time and space.

**thy kingdom come,**

May all of creation look more and more like your heavenly kingdom,  
a place of peace,  
a place of love,  
a place everyone feels at home.

**thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Here in this place may love be genuine,  
may hospitality be given to strangers,  
may we overcome evil with good,  
and may we live peaceably with each other.

**Give us this day our daily bread**

Allow us to taste and see, drink and remember, the goodness you have given us.  
Allow us to trust rather than hoard  
so that no one goes hungry, and no one thirsts.

**and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

Give us as many chances as it takes to get it right,  
and may we give others just as many chances  
as you have given us.

**And lead us not into temptation,**

Guide us to stay on your good path,  
even when it seems easier to curse than to bless,  
more satisfying to seek vengeance than to build peace.

**but deliver us from evil.**

Because we know evil has many forms.

It shows up in test results as cancer;  
it startles us in harsh words and policies;  
it arrives at our door as violence;  
and it bubbles up inside us as self-destruction.

However and whenever evil shows up, rescue us from it time and time again.

**For thine is the kingdom,**

Where we hope to live with you,

**and the power,**

That you showed us by taking on weakness,

**and the glory,**

That we hope to reflect with our lives out into the world,

**forever**

And ever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE**

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

*next page*

**BLESSING AND CHARGE**

God does not abandon us. God's love is steadfast.

May this love inspire all our relationships as we leave this house of worship,  
knit together in God's love, bound as a community of Christ,  
guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit.


**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**


# You Shall Go Out with Joy 80




You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;




the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -




fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the




trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.




And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;



the trees of the field will clap their hands;



the trees of the field will clap their hands



while you go out with joy.

\*Clap hands.

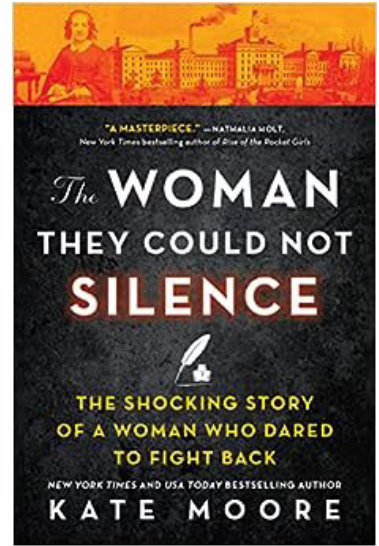


# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group meets today, 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 today.

**Join in on the discussion on September 17th!  
All are welcome, whether you've finished the book or not!**

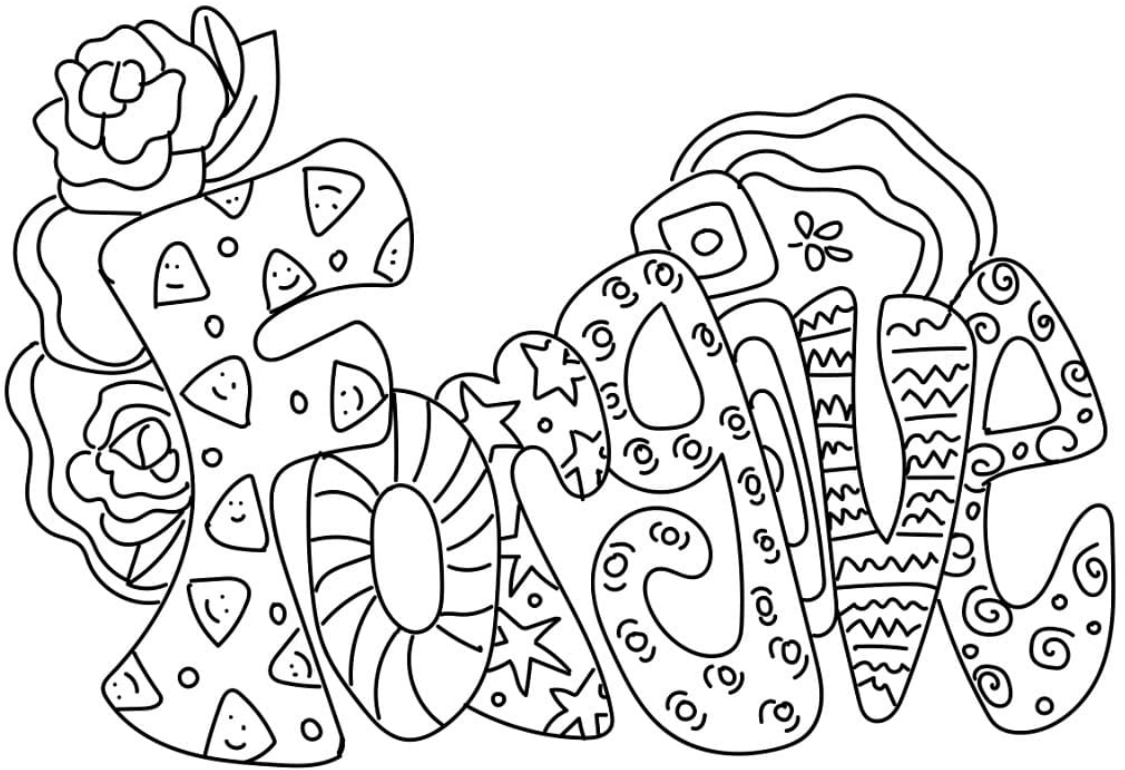


## Peace and Global Witness Offering coming on October 1!

Twenty-five percent of the offering stays with local congregations for support of peacemaking or social justice efforts. This year, CPC will donate to the Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense Fund. Watch for additional information in coming weeks. We will have a guest speaker after worship on October 1st.

For more information about the Peace and Global Witness offering, please check the insert!

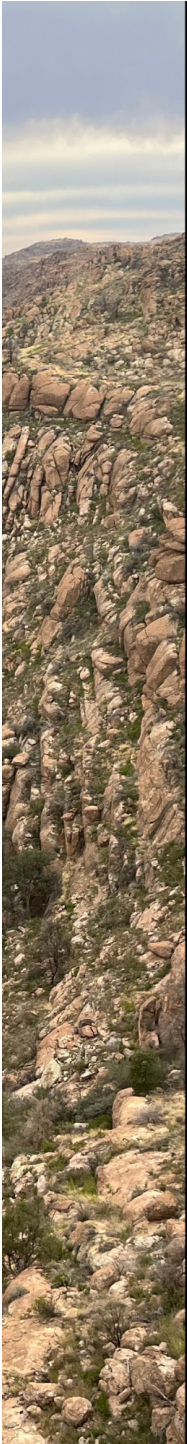




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- BROTHER
- SEVEN
- ACCOUNTS
- SERVANTS
- CHILDREN
- DEBT
- DENARII
- PRISON
- DISTRESSED
- PITY
- TORTURERS
- HEART



Jan Wiersma, former CPC pastor, has been accepted to attend a training session in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 21-23.

The training will be led by the Community Peacemaker Teams and the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition. Oak Flat is a portion of the Tonto National Forest east of Phoenix, Ariz. This is the original homeland of about 11 tribes of Apache people, who consider it a sacred site...



From [http://www.apache-stronghold.com/...](http://www.apache-stronghold.com/)

“The Apache Stronghold are individuals who come together in unity to battle continued colonization, defend holy sites and freedom of religion, and are dedicated to building a better community through neighborhood programs and civic engagement. We work from San Carlos, Ariz., connecting Apaches and other Native and non-Native allies from all over the world.”

If Jan and the group leaders agree that spending a month in Oak Flat accompanying the Indigenous leaders would be a good fit for Jan, she will schedule that, too.

Participants encourage their supporters to contribute toward the \$2,000 cost of the training and the later stay at Oak Flat. Jan can pay this, plus my travel costs, from my own savings, but, as with any cause, donating gives people an incentive to learn about their investment.

Jan said: “If you feel so moved, I understand that you can make a tax-deductible contribution in this way: Go to the donation page for the coalition here: <https://dismantleddiscovery.org/donate/> and include the memo ‘September ‘23 CPT training’ for your donation.”

“Again, if you want to know more about this situation and the urgency that has inspired them to request people of faith to accompany them in their nonviolent spiritual resistance to the “murder” of this ancient, sacred site, you can go to [apache-stronghold.com](http://apache-stronghold.com) and read about the situation or watch a number of brief but excellent videos,” Jan said.

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

**Sunday, September 17**

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

10:40 am **Book Discussion Group**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Tuesday, September 19**

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

**Wednesday, September 20**

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due

**Thursday, September 21**

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Sunday, September 24**

9:00 am Quarterly Deacons Meeting

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

10:30 am Nominating Committee

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

Special Music

IT Support

Rev. Carla Nelson

Sherrie Wilson

Glenna Muir

Louis Bouchard