



September 24, 2023

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

Bathrooms are located down the hall to the left, 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

from Psalm 107:1-3, 43

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered
in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN GTG 408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place



1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you



know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

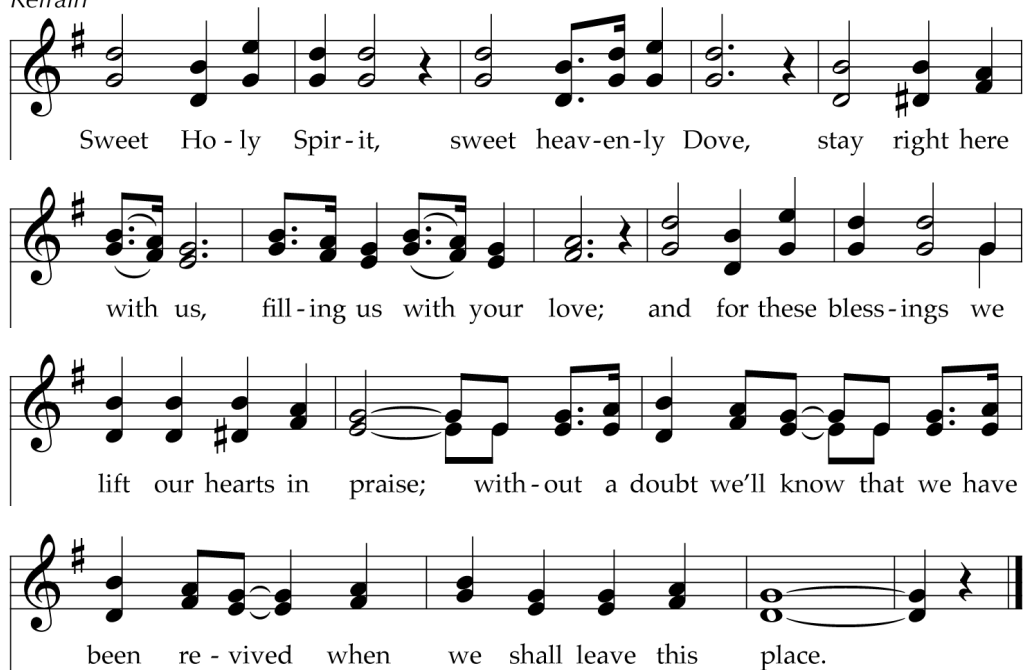


sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am



know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain



Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here
with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we
lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have
been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious God, forgive us when we grumble and complain against your goodness as the Israelites did in the desert, as the elder brother did to his father, as the workers in the field did to the landowner. We judge and weigh your gifts according to our standards. We often question your fairness instead of receiving your grace with thanksgiving and joy. Help us to see your world through your eyes and with your spirit of generosity and grace, that we may welcome the chance to serve in your kingdom and all who join with us. Forgive us, Lord, in your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Holy God, your Word teaches us that all Scripture is inspired by you and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, speak to us, and inspire us that we may be proficient and equipped for every good work; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 105: 1-6

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

**O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

On Eagle's Wings

Mark Neville

By Michael Joncas - arr. by Mark Hayes

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and bass lines of each system.



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

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**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

next page

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know that in the Lord
your labor is not in vain.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

79 Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected next week, see the insert for more information about that offering. Twenty-Five Percent of the offering will be shared locally. CPC has chosen the SE MN Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense as our recipient this year. The Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense estimates that 7,800 people live in southeastern Minnesota without documentation.

More than half of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detained immigrants from southeastern Minnesota are not represented by attorneys.

People in detention who can't afford representation have a 3 percent chance of avoiding removal. By contrast, for those who get released from detention and who have legal representation, the success rate is 74 percent.

Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester will sponsor a program on legal defense for immigrants on Sunday, October 1, following worship. Leading the program will be Michael Resman and Phil Wheeler of the Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense.

The organization, it said, “works not to evade immigrant laws but to ensure that immigration laws are followed.”

In addition to the 25% of the Peace and Global Witness offering, donations can be made:

- By check to CPC, memo SMIILD
- Online: SMIILD website at <https://www.smiild.org/>
- By mail: Rochester Area Foundation, 12 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901 with a note intending the donation for SMIILD
- Online: the foundation website <https://rochesterarea.org/>



Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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

Tuesday, September 26

- 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)
7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, September 27

- 6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

Thursday, September 28

- 5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, October 1

- 9:30 am **Worship with Communion**
- Onsite and Online
10:30 am **Adult Forum: SMILD**
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.
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. Tim Gerarden
Peggy McCarty
Mark Neville
Louis Bouchard