

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

October 8, 2023

**Welcome to worship
this morning!**

Bulletin Cues:

Bold indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able.

Bathrooms are located down the hall, past the kitchen, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located across from the kitchen on the right hand side of the hallway (next to the Kidz Klub).

WELCOME AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come to learn.

Let us come to witness.

Let us come to change.

Let us come to repent.

Let us come to worship.



*Cremisan vineyard between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.
(Courtesy Kevin Begos)*

*OPENING HYMN GTG 66

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray. *Fine*

1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's
2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me, it looked so
bod - y but not the soul. There is but one train up - on this

to Refrain

fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
track. It runs to heav - en and then right back.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God's law is right and just, offering us wisdom and enlightenment. Yet we ignore the importance of God's law in our lives and persist in our own ways. In humility, let us confess our sins.

**God of the law and the prophets,
We do not want to admit
all the commandments we have broken.
We worship idols of money, success, and power.
We use your name to justify whatever we do.
We do not honor each other;
we covet, we lie, we wish evil upon others.
Our sins are too many to name.
Forgive us.
Speak to us and we will listen,
remembering that you are our freedom and deliverer.**

Do not be afraid: God loves us with an everlasting love; God's grace is unending. Siblings in Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God for such graciousness!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 19

Side A: West Side, Side B: East Side

**The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims your handiwork.**

A: Day speaks to day of your story; night unto night makes it known.
No speech, no word, no voice is heard; yet their message fills the world.

B: In the heavens, you pitched your tent for the sun to rest and rise;
like a bridegroom coming from his chamber, like an athlete eager to race.

A: It springs from the edge of the earth and runs its course across the sky
till it reaches the far horizon; nothing escapes its heat.

B: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
Your rule is sure, making wise the simple.

A: Your precepts are right, gladdening the heart;
Your command is clear, enlightening the eyes;

B: Fear of you, O God, is pure, enduring forever;
All your decrees are faithful and just.

A: They are more to be desired than the purest gold;
And sweeter than honey dripping from the comb.

B: By them you teach your servants; keeping them brings great reward.
But who can discern their own failings? Clear me from hidden faults.

A: Restrain me, too, from willful sins, lest they take me over.
Then I will be truly healed by your law.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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 GTG 49

The God of Abraham Praise

vs. 2 and 3



2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
In proph - et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

*This version of the Lord's Prayer is adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer
He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, influenced by Maori theologians*

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 542

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

4 God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

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.

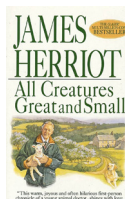
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Amen.

POSTLUDE



**Per Capita
Apportionment rate
for 2023
\$37.50**



The book discussion group
meets next Sunday (October
15) after worship to discuss
All Creatures Great and Small.
Plan to be here!

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Sunday, October 8

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

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, October 9

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, October 10

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, October 11

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

Thursday, October 12

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, October 15

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

10:30 am **Book Discussion Group**

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

*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

IT Support

Rev. Carla Nelson

Peggy McCarty

Louis Bouchard