



November 12, 2023
ARMISTICE DAY: Ringing bells for peace

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

The Armistice of 1918 ended the horrendous slaughter of World War I, called THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. When the Armistice was signed, exuberant JOY broke out around the world. For many years bells rang 11 times at that 11th hour of the 11th day on the 11th month. Then it slowly faded away, especially in the U.S. Now we ring bells again, many bells, many places, 11 times, at that sacred moment. With a moment of silence, we remember the soldiers and civilians killed in warfare in every country, and we commit to work and pray for peace until this assault on the Will of the Creator of us all, is finally over. Plan to stay after worship today to hear the bell rung 11 times in recognition of this day.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Together, we choose to serve God, which means:

We choose love.

We choose hope.

We choose peace.

We choose kindness.

We choose welcome.

We choose justice.

We choose to serve God.

Let us worship.

OPENING HYMN GTG 612

We Praise You O God

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are placed between the two staves of each system.

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Our God is a God of glorious deeds, of wondrous works. Our hope is in God. But we do not always keep God's commandments. Let us confess our sins before our merciful and mighty God.

Everlasting God,

we say we want to see you,

we say we want to know you,

we say we want to serve you,

but we also do not want to put in the work.

**We do not want to prepare for your coming
by working for your kin-dom on this earth.**

**We do not keep alert for signs of you among us,
so we schedule you in for an hour or so on Sundays.**

Forgive us.

Inspire us to put our faith to action.

**Surprise us with your presence so we might learn
to always be ready for you to arrive.**

All who seek God will rejoice and be glad. We proclaim that God is great because of this good news: we are forgiven! Be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, as we gather in your name, make our hearts places of peace, our minds harbors of tranquility. May your Word sow in our souls true love for you and for one another, rooting friendship and unity among us. May we give peace to each other sincerely and receive it with reverence. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 78:1-6 *Adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying*

Listen well, O peoples of the earth,
to inner promptings of the Spirit;
Let Silence enter your house that you may hear!

**For within your heart Love speaks:
not with word of deceit,**

But of spiritual truths to guide you upon the paths of peace.

Do not hide this from your children;
teach of the inward Voice, and
help all generations to listen in the Silence,

**That they may know the Beloved
and be free to follow the precepts of Love.**

For the Spirit of Truth is written upon open hearts,
that we might share the Divine Plan,

**And model to the children Love's way as we have been shown;
That each new generation might honor Silence,
the children yet unborn.**

Herein lies the hope of the future:
to live as co-creators with the great Creator.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

SPECIAL MUSIC It Is Well with My Soul Mark and Glenna
based on *Ville Du Havre* by Philip P. Bliss, music by Horatio G. Spafford

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Carla

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 352 My Lord! What a Morning

Refrain

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

Fine
fall, when the stars be - gin to fall. 1 You will hear the trum - pet
2 You will hear the sin - ner
3 You will hear the Chris - tian

sound
cry, to wake the na - tions un - der ground,
shout,

to Refrain
look - ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Holy One, our only Home, blessed be your name,
may your day dawn, your will be done, here, as in heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us, as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 192 Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining

next page

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The blessing of God, all-giving and all-holy,
who was and is and is to come—
be with you now and always.

Go in peace to love your God
with heart and soul and mind and strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

ARMISTICE DAY REMEMBRANCE

The Lord's Prayer is used with permission from
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Holy Wisdom Monastery, Madison, Wisconsin



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our



midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from



World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now
en - ter your bright-ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your



bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.



Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.



Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

REMEMBER



Sunday, November 19th is PW Thank Offering Sunday!

The women will lead worship and provide treats for coffee!

Our speaker will be Holly Fifield who founded The Landing with her husband in Rochester.

From their website

(www.thelandingmn.org):

“In 2017, The Landing MN started as just a dream. The concept came as an idea to co-founder Holly Fifield as she had a conversation with a friend, where they discussed the need for a retreat for those suffering and in need of spiritual and mental healing. This was the conversation that set the groundwork for what The Landing MN would come to be.

That same night, co-founder Dan Fifield had a dream about a place called ‘The Landing,’ a cabin on a lake that served as a place for retreats to help those in any place of need. Little did they know, The Landing would grow to be much more.”



Learn more about the
Thank Offering
of Presbyterian Women at
presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

Come hear more about The Landing on Sunday, November 19th!



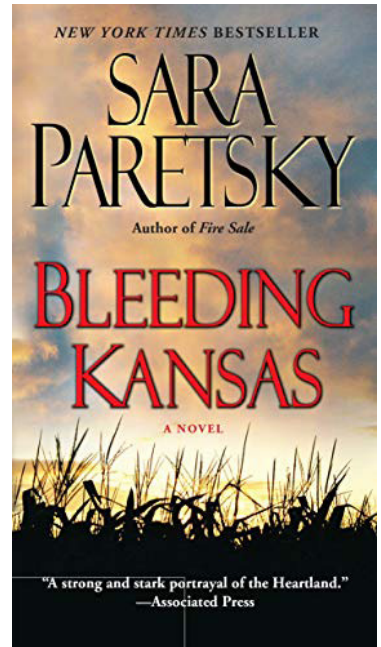
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

A Congregational Meeting is called for the purpose of approving the 2024 Slate of Officers. The meeting will take place on Sunday, November 19th, immediately following worship.

CPC’s Mission and Christian Education committees are planning to **collect presents and gift cards** for the children and families at East Gage. The committees are working with East Gage to determine what is needed. We will offer the congregation the opportunity to participate. More details will be forthcoming.

The **Book Discussion Group** will meet on Sunday, November 19th, following the short congregational meeting. The November book selection is *Bleeding Kansas* by Sara Paretsky. About the author: Sara Paretsky is the author of 20 books, including her renowned V. I. Warshawski novels. Her many awards include the Cartier Diamond Dagger Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Crime Writers' Association and the 2011 Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Synopsis: In Kansas, on land that once saw some of America's bloodiest antislavery battles, three families have coexisted for more than one hundred fifty years: the Grelliers, the Fremantles, and the Schapens. Once allies in the fight against slavery, today the Schapens and the Grelliers disagree on every subject, from organic farming to the war in Iraq, but above all religion. Read about these families linked by their Midwestern pioneer pasts, and the dark family secrets that threaten to tear them apart and then come join in the lively discussion on Sunday, November 19th.



Greening of the Church will take place after worship on Sunday, November 26th. Plan to stay and decorate our worship space for Advent and Christmas! Many hands make light work!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, November 12

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

10:40 am CPC Choir Rehearsal

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, November 13

Office Closed

Tuesday, November 14

Office closed, Stephanie will work from home in the afternoon

9:30 am PW Bible Study

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, November 15

6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

Thursday, November 16

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, November 19 PW Thank Offering

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

10:30 am Congregational Meeting

10:45 am Book Discussion Group

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



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

Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline

Glenna Muir's sister, Annie

Mary Alice Richardson and family

*To be added to the prayer list,
please contact either: office@cpchester.org or pastor@cpchester.org
Emergency Pastoral Support:
Rev. Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254*

Church Staff

Bridge Pastor

Pianist

Custodian

Office Manager

Rev. Carla Nelson

Glenna Muir

Nancy Sanford

Stephanie Pasch

Liturgist

Special Music

IT Support

Serving in Worship Today

Bruce Felger

Mark Neville & Glenna Muir

Louis Bouchard