

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



November 26, 2023
Reign of Christ Sunday

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is she who made us, and we are hers.

We are God's people, the sheep of her pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; her steadfast love endures forever.

God's faithfulness is from generation to generation. Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN GTG 15

All Creatures of Our God and King



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain



and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!



O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Thus says the Lord our God: “I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the scattered sheep, so I will seek out my people.”

Trusting that God is indeed seeking us, let us confess our sin together:

Shepherding God, you have called to us, but we have not answered.

You have sought us out, but we have continued to wander.

You have tenderly gathered us together and cared for us,

but we have not extended that same care and mercy to others.

Forgive us. Remind us. Teach us.

Set us free from sin

that we might turn toward your love and justice for the whole world.

Guide us so that, tentative step after tentative step, we may walk your way. Amen.

Thus says the Lord our God: “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.”

The relentless grace of Jesus Christ always finds and forgives us.

Thanks be to our ever-seeking God!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION GTG 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

vs. 2



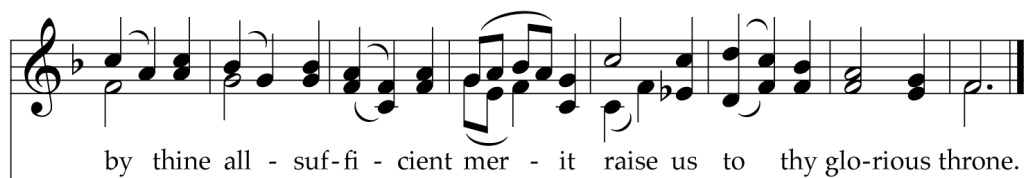
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Glenna Muir

Plainsong, Arr. David Lanz / Melody Bober

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them,

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

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 382 Heaven Is Singing for Joy



1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
 2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
 3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,



for in your life and in mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.
 for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.
 for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

next page

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Friends, go forth from this place and seek the face of Christ.
Seek Christ's face in every person you meet:
the least, the greatest, the remarkable, the ordinary, the sacred, the profane.

Seek Christ's face outside yourselves:
outside these walls, outside your daily routines.

Seek Christ's face in people who are vulnerable,
trusting that when they look into your eyes,
they, too, will see Christ's face looking back.

And as you go:

May the grace of Christ enfold your heart,
May the love of God sustain your soul,
And may the holy mischief of the Spirit disrupt your life
And bring you home to Christ's Sovereign, joyful Kingdom!

Alleluia. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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Liturgy written by Rev. Ginna Bairby and provided for free distribution.



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;



hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.





Greening of the Church will take place after worship today. Plan to stay and decorate our worship space for Advent and Christmas! Many hands make light work!

During Advent, daily messages will be available “to expand and deepen your spiritual walk through Advent towards Christmas.” You’ll be able to pick up a devotional beginning Advent I (December 3). The same devotional will be available on our website. Another option is to receive daily messages via text. Please see the information below about signing up for texts/notifications. There will also be different daily messages on Facebook. Check it out in December!



Pick a way to receive messages for Daily Texts:

- A) If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: rmd.at/ga2hfb Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You’ll be prompted to download the mobile app.
- B) If you don’t have a smartphone, get text notifications. Text the message @ga2hfb to the number 81010. If you’re having trouble with 81010, try texting @ga2hfb to (608)467-4108. Note: you’ll be asked if you are a student (s) or a parent (p). Choose either one. The application was designed for schools, but will work for our purposes.

If you received daily texts in the past, you’re likely still on the list and you don’t need to re-sign up.

* Standard text message rates apply.

Community Presbyterian Church is aiming to make Christmas a bit brighter for Gage East children and their families this holiday season.

The congregation is collecting gift cards, preferably in \$25 denominations at Target and Walmart, for children and their families. Donations of cash and other gift cards also are welcome. Gage East staff and parents will make the decisions about how the cards are distributed, which will be based on need.



The deadline for submissions is Sunday, Dec. 3. You can bring the gift cards and other items to church. Be careful about sending the cards through the mail. Checks can be written to “Community Presbyterian Church” with a note in the memo line “Christmas for Gage East.” Cash and small items donated also should be labeled, so we know who contributed them.

Another possible gift would be small, inexpensive kids' items of the stocking-stuffer type. The Gage East library is encouraging the children to read aloud to volunteers or have a book read to them. “The best way I've found to encourage reading is to promise kids a prize for a certain number of books read,” said Jan Wiersma, library volunteer and former CPC pastor.

Possible selections are:

- Small notebooks and pens
- Little handheld games or puzzles
- Anything Pokemon or Minecraft
- Little stuffed animals.

Questions may be directed to Sherrie swilson@unomaha.edu.

“Lord, when was it that we saw you?...”

Matthew 25.37

Until we see the throne of the Holy One rightly
we see nothing.

It's an upturned five-gallon bucket on a street corner,
a bed in the locked ward, a cot in a refugee camp.

A cell. A wheelchair. This is where the Mystery abides.
The burning Sun of Life, the hand that spins the universe,
the uncontainable Heart of Grace, will not be confined
to the familiar, the comfortable, the esteemed.

A pretty face, elegant mastery, even wisdom,
these are distractions, little baubles outside the temple.

The Ferocious Glory will not be packaged.

Look in the yellowed eyes, the matted hair.

Listen to the strange accent, the halting speech,
or mangled speech, or none. The Infinite One is there.
Maybe hardest of all, look at that annoying co-worker,
the boss from hell. No one, no one, is exempt.

No matter whose presence you are in, you are always
as close to the throne of heaven as you think you are.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, November 26

- 9:30 am **Worship - Onsite and Online**
 10:30 am **Greening of the church**
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, November 27

- 6:00 pm Building Usage: Med City Tai Chi

Tuesday, November 28

- 9:30 am PW Bible Study
 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
 6:30 pm Session meeting (v)
 7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, November 29

- 6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

Thursday, November 30

- 5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Saturday, December 2

- 1:00 pm Building Usage: Piano Recital

Sunday, December 3 Advent I

- 9:30 am **Worship with Communion**
- Onsite and Online
 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 the office via email:
 office@cpcrochester.org.
 Emergency Pastoral Support:
 Rev. Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254*

Church Staff

Bridge Pastor	Rev. Carla Nelson
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Litugist	Dave Copeland
Special Music	Glenna Muir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard