

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**February 18, 2024**

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come in.

Feel your feet on the floor.

Settle your worries.

Take a deep breath.

Dust the cobwebs from your ears.

Relax the tension in your jaw,

**for Christ is here.**

**God never stops seeking us.**

We have been found.

**Let us find God in return.**

Let us worship the God of deep waters.

Amen.

## OPENING HYMN GTG 475

## Come thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a -bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a -bove.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat. Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God,  
 You call us by name.  
 You join us in the deep waters of life.  
 You invite us to drop our nets and follow you,  
 and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter.  
 Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised  
 to find you in our midst.**

**Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.  
Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.  
Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat.  
Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you,  
for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray.  
Amen.**

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy. And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend. Church family, hear and believe this good news: You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.

**Amen.**

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

##### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator God, You hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude we pray, Amen.

##### LENTEN POETRY Poem

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

All This Time  
I put my headphones in.  
I walk quickly.  
I look toward the ground.  
I create one million barriers  
of independence,  
but still God seeks after me.  
God leans a rainbow over the sky.  
God sends sun after the rain.  
God blankets the earth with wildflowers.

God allows music to carry  
and laughter to rise,  
all so that I might notice.  
And when I do notice,  
the unfurling that begins in my soul  
is slow and holy and burning.  
I am not alone.  
God has been chasing after me  
all this time.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

**Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!**

Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

**He leads the humble in what is right  
and teaches the humble his way.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Glenna Muir

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5 : 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Carla

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

OFFERING

*An offering plate is placed near the back of the room to receive your offerings and is available before, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.*

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

vs 1, 2, 4



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Through the grace of God, we have gifts in abundance and pour them out like perfume from a flask, not for our sakes, but to worship the One who lavishes love on the world.

Gracious God, we thank you for the mystery that you give yourself to us. Lead us by your Spirit in this Lenten season to repent in hope, to serve you in faith, and to die and rise with Christ. Amen.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in a God of abundance—  
a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,  
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

**I believe in a God who comforts—  
a God who says, "Do not be afraid;"  
a God who joins me in life's deep waters.**

**I believe in a God who invites—  
a God who says, "Follow me,"  
and, "You will be fishers of people."**

**I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—  
a God of second chances and boundless mercy;  
a God who calls us by name.**

**We believe.  
Help our unbelief.  
In Christ's name we pray.  
Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**God, our Savior, hear our prayer.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Mother and Father in heaven,  
holy be your name.  
Impose your Reign,  
that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today this one day's bread.  
Forgive our wrongs  
as we forgive those who do wrong against us.  
Save us from our temptations  
and keep us from doing evil.  
For the Realm, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 170      You Walk along Our Shoreline**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'You Walk along Our Shoreline'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Below the treble staff, there are three lines of lyrics corresponding to the notes above them.

1 You walk a - long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.  
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.  
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king-dom's name;



We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.  
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.  
 we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.

And if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,  
 We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,  
 You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

then I will make you fish - ers but of the hu - man soul."  
 our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.  
 to let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

\* BENEDICTION

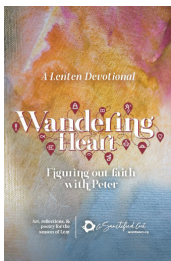
Beloved wanderer,  
 as you leave this place,  
 may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.  
 May you look for God in every face.  
 May you find the courage to get out of the boat,  
 to run to the tomb,  
 and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,  
may you hear God's voice deep within,  
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."  
You are called.  
You are blessed.  
In both your ups and your downs,  
you always belong to God.  
Go now in peace.  
Go trusting that good news.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

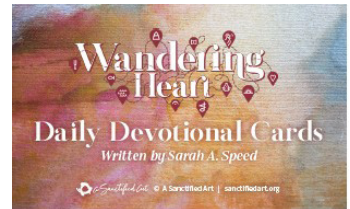
POSTLUDE

"Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  
A Sanctified Art LLC  
sanctifiedart.org."

Lord's Prayer adaptation from  
*Unfolding Light*.



Printed Lenten Devotionals are available today. A pack of Daily Devotional Cards can also be picked up today. These include a question and a prayer for each day. These cards will be used as a resource for the Daily Texts.



Pick a way to receive messages for Daily Texts:

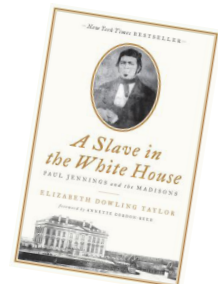
A) If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [rmd.at/ga2hfb](http://rmd.at/ga2hfb) Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

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.

The book for February book group is *A Slave in the White House* by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor. The discussion will be held today, February 18, following worship.



## *River of Grace*

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 5:1-11

Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing

“Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” (Luke 5:8)



As we begin Lent, this desperate confession introduces us to Peter, the disciple whose story—and wandering heart—we will follow for the next 7 weeks. If you’ve ever acted in a play or film production, you may have been tasked with writing your character’s backstory, imagining the threads of your character’s life that form the tapestry of their personality and motivations. If we do this exercise with Peter, many threads of imagination and historical details weave together. Peter was a commercial fisherman; his business partners were Andrew (his brother) as well as Zebedee and his two sons. Based in Galilee, he was most likely bilingual, speaking Aramaic and Greek. Culturally, he was immersed in Judaism and Hellenism. His business would have been under oppressive control of the Roman government, which arbitrarily imposed harsh rental and harbor fees, fishing licenses, and taxes on domestic fishermen. He was likely a blue-collar worker daily constrained by tides and taxes.

With this backstory in mind, we may hear Peter’s response to the abundant catch of fish with fresh ears. There are so many messages within his protest: “I’m not prepared. I’m not capable. I’m not deserving. I’m not faithful enough. I’m not smart enough. I’m not the type you’re looking for.” Have you ever found yourself saying these things in response to a new calling, or to an abundant gift of grace?

In this image, the bursting nets transform into a river of grace meandering through the composition of Peter’s life. The river pours into Peter’s hands, but he can’t quite grasp the fullness of this gift and calling quite yet, and so most of it rushes right by. As you will see in my other pieces for this series, this river of grace will wander alongside Peter throughout his life. The river represents how his journey with Christ begins and ends: with an abundant catch of fish. He is forever tethered to the overflowing love of God. The river is a symbol of Peter’s gifts, as God uses what Peter knows how to do well (being a fisher of fish) and invites him to apply his skills to a new calling (being a fisher of people). It’s a visible reminder of the ways God’s grace bends and turns and rushes to find each of our wandering hearts.

Despite Peter’s resistance, grace seeks him out. His right thumb gets caught in the net. He can’t escape the fact that God’s goodness and mercy will pursue him all the days of his life (Psalm 23:6). The river rushes in. The question for Peter—and for each of us—is will he follow where it leads? —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## Sunday, February 18

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

10:40 am Book Discussion Group

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Monday, February 19 Presidents' Day

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

## Tuesday, February 20

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Presby Pastors Lunch at CPC

5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

## Wednesday, February 21

9:00 am No Prayer Group this week

## Thursday, February 22

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Sunday, February 25

9:30 am Worship - 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  
 Roland Ronningen and his parents

Building Partners:  
 Children's Place Preschool  
 Labranza de Dios

*To be added to the prayer list,  
 please contact the pastor: [pastor@cpcrochester.org](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org)  
 the office: 507-280-9291 or via email: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).  
 Emergency Pastoral Support: Pastor 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

Liturgist	Sue Chipman
Special Music	Glenna Muir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard