

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



Who Do You Say That I Am?
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Digital painting, Inspired by Matthew 16:13-20

March 3, 2024

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 19

If you ask the sky who God is,

the sky will tell you of God's reach.

If you ask the day who God is,

the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

If you ask the night who God is,

the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God"

Psalm 19:1

Are you listening?

We are listening!

We will sing of God's glory.

Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING HYMN GTG 625

How Great Thou Art

vs. 1 & 3

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: [Refrain]**

CALL TO CONFESSION

In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter said, "You are the Messiah." Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered? Did he respond loudly and with confidence, or with a tentative whisper?

We'll never know. The text doesn't provide those details. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening.

So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.

Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.

Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—

trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.

Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.

But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves,
we ask for your tender grace.

Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends,

Whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction,
with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—
God will always listen with love and mercy.

So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven.

Speak that good news with confidence. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Word,

For generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered, "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God."

For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst. So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray, amen.

LENTEN POETRY

Praise the Mount

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

I have stayed quiet before.
I have held my tongue
while passing mountains.
I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.
I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.
But not today.
Not today.
Today I will dance.
Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.
Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass.
Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the weather—
early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.
Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees,
and your entire being.
And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.
I will not swallow my praise.
I have stayed quiet before,
but not today.
Today I will sing.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 19: 1-4, 7-10, 14

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

**There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

SERMON

Pastor Julie

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 321

The Church’s One Foundation

vs. 1, 3 & 5

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis-tressed,
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

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

Jesus asked the disciples, “But what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Church, what do you say?

**Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm,
the voice of truth spoken over us,
and love without walls.**

**Jesus is justice for the weary,
healing for the hurt,
and welcome for the stranger.**

**Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—
with me on the mountain
and beside me in the valley.**

**Jesus is a star in the night,
and the love that knows my name.**

Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”

Like Peter, we say,

“Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God.”

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Mother, our Father, giver of life, Holiness of Presence;
 may our hearts always bow to you.**

**Your Realm break forth, your delight blossom among us,
 making this earth your heaven.**

Give us each moment our life, our breath.

Free us from being judged, as we free others from our judgments.

**Guide us safely past our desires and attachments,
 and rescue us from the power of evil.**

For the world is yours; the only real power is yours;

Creation's splendor is yours, in this present moment, and in eternity. Amen.

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

*For communion, gluten free bread and grape juice are served for all who partake.
Please take and eat the bread as it is served, and then as a sign of unity,
hold the cup until all are served so that we might partake together.*

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION GTG 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

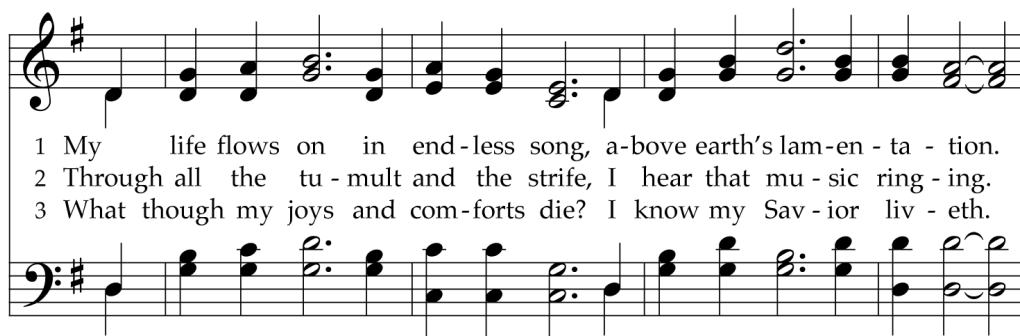
We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

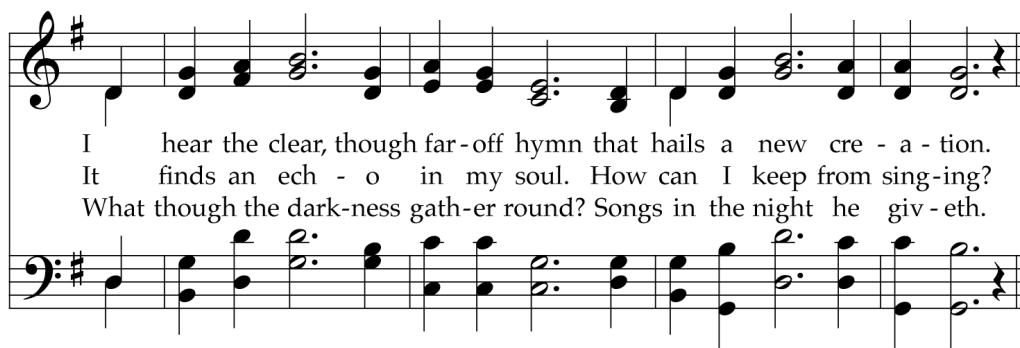
*CLOSING HYMN GTG 821

My Life Flows On

vs 1-3

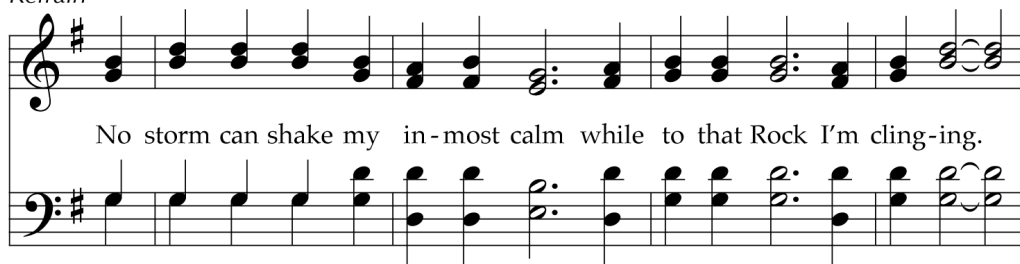


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

* 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

<p>"Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org." Lord's Prayer adaptation from <i>Unfolding Light</i>.</p>
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-----TEAR HERE -----

Question of the Week

What is one thing at Community Presbyterian Church that is sacred to you? That one thing that you would not want changed. Please tell Pastor Carla, or email it to her, or write it down and put it in the offering plate.

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Sunday, March 3

9:30 am Worship with Communion
- Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, March 4

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, March 5

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 am No Prayer Group this week

Thursday, March 7

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, March 10

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

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 or

the office: 507-280-9291 or via email: office@cpcrochester.org.

Emergency Pastoral Support: Pastor Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254

Church Staff

Bridge Pastor

Pianist

Custodian

Office Manager

Rev. Carla Nelson

Glenna Muir

Nancy Sanford

Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher

Liturgist

IT Support

Rev. Julie Beck

Bruce Felger

Louis Bouchard