

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

March 10, 2024

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates

congregational response,

* indicates please stand, if able

Beseeching

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 16:21-23

Ink on paper



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Forever In My Heart
by Phillip Keveren

Spencer Ketterling

*CALL TO WORSHIP

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

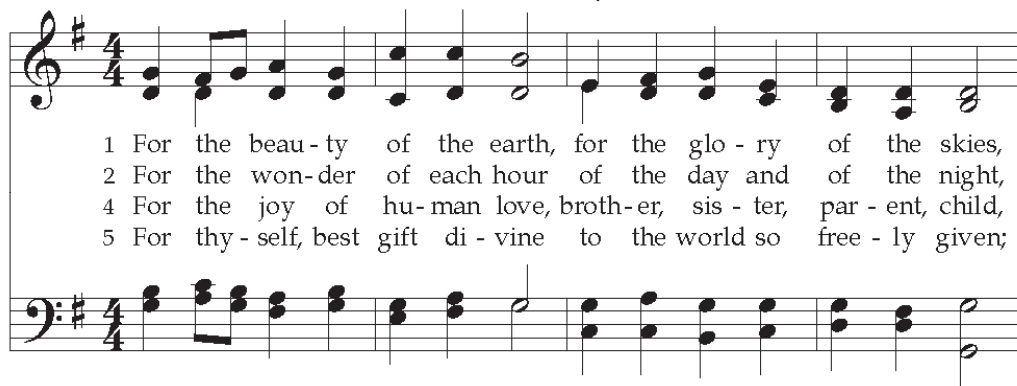
God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

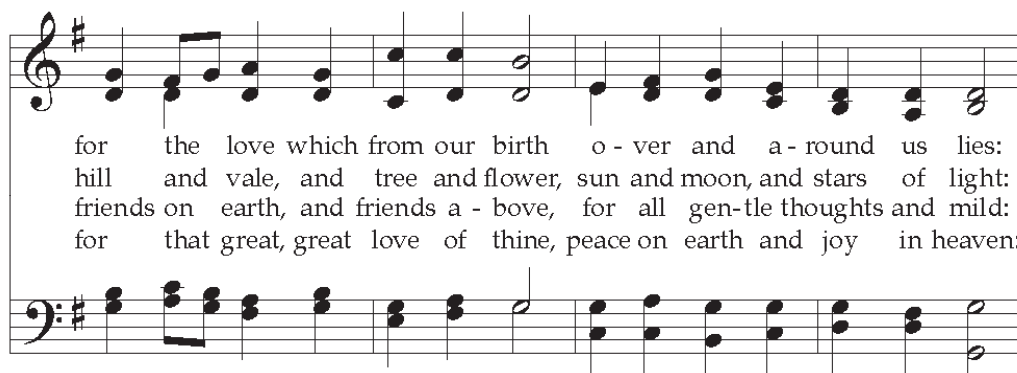
OPENING HYMN GTG 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



CALL TO CONFESSION

There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church, and says, "Get behind me, Satan!" I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter. It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan! Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him. Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change. Join me in prayer—

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.

Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!"

We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.

We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.

Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.

Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.

Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in,
no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God,
no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged,
or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—
we worship a God of grace.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Pour water into the baptismal font as you speak the following lines.¹
God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.
We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.
Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.
Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Listening God,
If we could attach ourselves to you, we would.
We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts.
We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being.
We would bind ourselves to you,
but instead,
we wander.
Instead of attaching ourselves to you,
we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day.
Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down,
constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.
So speak clearly to us now.
Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news.
We are listening.
We are hungry.
We are hopeful.
Amen.

LENTEN POETRY

Open Hands

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—
this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"
when Jesus must leave.

From the very beginning
we've known how to hold tight.

So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Spencer Ketterling

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-23

The Message Bible

Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, “Impossible, Master! That can never be!”

But Jesus didn’t swerve. “Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works.”

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 720

Jesus Calls Us

vs. 1, 3, & 4

1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest-less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -

sound-eth say-ing, "Chris-tian, fol-low me."
 plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
 be-dience, serve and love thee best of all.

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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 second chances,
**a God who sees through my stubbornness
 and holds my fear with tenderness.**

I believe that this God of second chances
 uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.
Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

This change is holy and important work, although challenging.

When fear and scarcity plague me,

or when the impossible feels out of reach,

I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN

The Way



Faith - ful - ly I learned to fol - low
Life was ea - sy, faith ____ was sta - ble
Thread by thread my faith ____ un - rav - eled
Though the way leads through steep can - yons

4



Step by step and not to stray
Then the path - way climbed up - hill
When the way be - came un - known
I sur - ren - der my con - trol

7



March - ing on with proud ____ bra - va - do
Life got hard - er past ____ the ____ cra - dle
So - lid ground gave way ____ to ____ gra - vel
Christ is still my sure ____ com - pan - ion

10



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* 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*.

Beseeching

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 16:21-23

Ink on paper

“God forbid it!” says Peter to Jesus (Matthew 16:22). In this image, Peter beseeches Jesus to avoid the cross, to not let the prophecies become reality.

After ten years in ministry, I work in a church for the first time. In this text, I feel Jesus speaking directly to me: “You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things” (Matthew 16:23). This is exactly where frustration surfaces for me in my amazing church job. It is when I have set my eye on human things. I worry about the budget. I worry about the email. I worry about the building. So why am I so focused on human things? And the negative ones, at that?

Because I’m human. Because these things matter. But not if I miss the grandeur of this incredible organization sharing the expansive love of God!

With every brush stroke in this ink painting, the humanity of Peter’s face deepens, his expression clarifies. He cannot let his beloved friend be murdered. He worries about human things. How weighty and legitimate those things feel. Jesus seems free of those human worries. He focuses with confidence on the path ahead, though Peter’s concern causes him to falter.

Perhaps we can each be free of human concerns as well... However, that feels like a pipe dream, and Jesus knows it: “Get behind me, Satan” (Matthew 16:23). He does not blame Peter. Instead, he calls out Satan from within his friend. In doing so, he offers us a much needed reminder to refocus. Thanks be to God. —Hannah Garrity



Today, we welcome Spencer Ketterling as our guest pianist. Spencer is a Rochester native and has loved playing the piano ever since his grandma taught him at age six. He is in the process of completing a bachelor's degree from Luther College with a focus in bassoon performance. Spencer's non-musical activities include spending time with his family and friends and working at a coffee shop in town. He is extremely grateful for the opportunity to share the gift of music with the congregation!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will meet after worship on Sunday, March 17 to discuss *The Big Finish* by Brooke Fossey.

from Goodreads.com:

“Meet Duffy, an old curmudgeon who lives in an assisted living home. Meet Josie, a desperate young woman who climbs through his window. Together, they’re going to learn it’s never too late—or too early—to change your ways.



In a funny, insightful, and life-affirming debut, Brooke Fossey delivers an unflinching look at growing old, living large, and loving big, as told by a wise-cracking man who didn't see any of it coming.”

For your calendar

Palm Sunday - March 24, 9:30 am worship

Maundy Thursday - March 28, 6:00 pm soup supper, 6:30 pm worship

Easter Sunday - March 31, 9:30 am worship

-----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 10

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, March 11

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, March 12

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, March 13

9:00 am Prayer Group this week

7:30 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, March 14

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, March 17

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	Rev. Carla Nelson
Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Pianist	Spencer Ketterling
Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
IT Support	Louis Bouchard