

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

April 7, 2024

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response,

\* indicates please stand, if able

WELCOME AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said,

**“Follow me.”**

Jesus said,

**“Take heart, it is I;  
do not be afraid.”**

Jesus said,

**“Forgive seventy times seven.”**

Jesus said,

**“Feed my sheep.”**

In response, we say:

**“Here’s my heart.**

**Take and seal it.**

**Seal it for thy courts above.”**

Let us worship God with all our hearts.



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our  
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
 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  
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
 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."  
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter. Despite being one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes. He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious.

Friends, we're a lot like Peter.  
Despite our faith, we make mistakes.  
Despite our belief, we carry unbelief.  
Despite our love, we can cause hurt.

So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives. God's grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple. God's grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,  
Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.  
You tell us your truth and we push it away.  
We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.  
We profess our faith and deny it three times.  
We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.  
Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith.  
Tether us to your heart.  
Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination.  
Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you.  
With humble hearts we pray, amen.**

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love me?" This repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter's word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, "I do not know that man." So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denials into love.

Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of second chances and God of new life, we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had

courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. Amen.

## LENTEN POETRY

*Here's My Heart*

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

*Inspired by "The Lanyard" by Billy Collins*

As a child I made a nativity set for my mother—  
pinch pot clay, uneven angel wings,  
hair made with the help of a garlic press,  
Joseph's staff rolled out like I was God  
and it was an earthworm.

There was nothing beautiful about it,  
nothing whispering of talent,  
but I made it for my mother!

So I wrapped  
that questionable piece of art in a box  
and gave it to her  
like I was handing her a Picasso.

*Here, mother,*

*you carried me in your womb.*

*You bandaged my knees when I fell.*

*You made soup when I was sick.*

*You rocked me to sleep as an infant*

*and sewed my costumes by hand.*

*In return, I made you this haphazard nativity!*

And in my childlike mind,  
I thought that the small white lamb,  
molded from a lumpy piece of clay,  
could somehow make us even,  
could somehow balance the scales,  
could somehow pay her back.

And bless my mother,  
because in her grace,  
she smiled and she displayed that  
hodge-podge nativity set  
on the mantel  
as if it were her pride and joy.  
*(I believed that it was.)*

Maybe that's the way it is with God.

I say, Here's my heart  
and God smiles.

And God takes it.

And despite the ragtag nature of my  
human-hearted faith,  
whatever I can give always ends up on  
God's mantel.

Whatever I can give always calls for  
pride and joy.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Invitation to Communion*

CPC Choir

by Deborah Governor

## GOSPEL READING

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

**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 498      Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -  
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et  
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we  
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your



le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their  
room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you  
gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am  
name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that



food for - ev - er - more.  
came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken  
with you; do not fear!"  
tell your love and care.



for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -



gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—  
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.**

**We believe in a God who cares for God's people—  
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.**

**We believe in a God who took on flesh—  
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.**

**We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,  
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community.**

**And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.**

#### 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.

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

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

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

##### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One of the first things Jesus did after the resurrection was feed his disciples. The Gospel of John tells us it was a beach fire—bread and fish, cooked over an open flame. Immediately the disciples knew it was Jesus because Jesus was always feeding people! Jesus was always telling the left out and the ignored, the hurting and the hungry, the sick and the hopeful, “I have a seat saved for you.”

Friends, that is why we come to this table 2,000 years later. We come to remember.

We come to be close. We come to get a taste of the kingdom of God. So come hungry. Come seeking. Come with your wandering heart and your fickle faith and know that Christ has a seat saved for you. Christ always has a seat saved for you, and nothing can ever change that. For this is the joyful feast for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God. It is good and beautiful to give God our praise. Loving God, at your table Christ prepares a place for us. We come to your table, grateful for our belonging. In your house there are many rooms. In your house we have many roommates, siblings who are also God's beloved people. We come as one with all creation as we sing together.

SANCTUS GTG 552

Holy, Holy, Holy

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the  
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ BREAKING OF THE BREAD



THE LORD'S PRAYER

**O Divine Parent, Giver of Life,  
whose presence is holiness,  
may our hearts be in you.  
Transform the world  
according to your delight,  
that all earth may become a holy place.  
Give us each moment that moment's breath.  
Give us your gift of forgiveness,  
that receiving it deeply we may give it freely.  
Transform our desires,  
and free us from evil powers;  
for all creation, and all power, and all beauty  
are yours, now and forever. 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 *Refrain of Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

**By your body broken for us,  
by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people.  
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord. Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

\* 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.

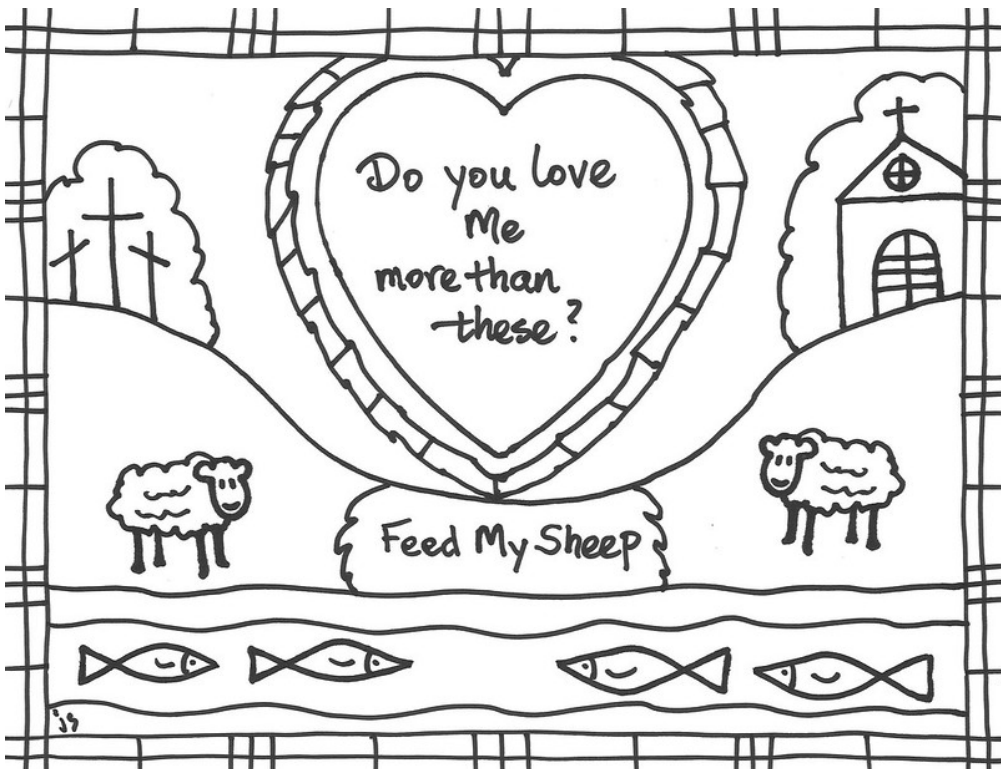
Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

**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*.



# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

**Sunday, April 7**

- 9:30 am** Worship with Communion  
- Onsite and Online  
**2:30 pm** Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**April 4-15 Stephanie - on vacation**

**Monday, April 8**

- 9:30 am** Mission Prayer Group  
**6:00 pm** Building Use: Med City Tai Chi

**Tuesday, April 9**

- 9:30 am** NO PW Bible Study (changed 4/16)  
**7:00 pm** Building Use: Mission Aid Network

**Wednesday, April 10**

- 9:00 am** Prayer Group  
**7:30 pm** CPC Choir

**Thursday, April 11**

- 5:30 pm** Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Sunday, April 14**

- 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 Massaro and family  
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@cpchester.org](mailto:pastor@cpchester.org),  
org or the office: 507-280-9291 or via  
email: [office@cpchester.org](mailto:office@cpchester.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 Preacher	Rev. Julie Beck
Special Music	CPC Choir
Liturgist	Margie Petersen
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

## Feed My Sheep

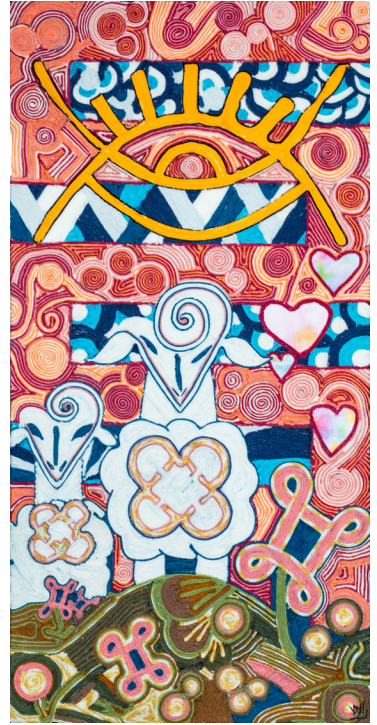
by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by John 21:1-19

*Yarn and paper collage on canvas*

Feed My Sheep holds a special place in my heart as it is inspired by the text a dear friend of mine used for their ordination. This piece reminds me of their long and complicated journey that led them to the priesthood, much like Peter. As a mixed media artist, I wanted to try something I've never done before—perhaps the silliest decision someone with a deadline could make.

This entire piece<sup>15</sup> (with the exception of the three hearts) is made of yarn. For some reason, the feeling of a sheep's wool kept sticking out to me everytime I read this text. We refer to Jesus as both el Cordero de Dios<sup>16</sup> and the shepherd. So why not lean into sheep imagery? I thought the piece would be more vibrant for Easter in contrast to the pieces I created for Lent. This would really take viewers on a spiritual journey while studying Peter.



This post-resurrection story concludes the wandering for Peter so the subject of this piece sits in front of the Adinkra symbol, Nkyinkyim,<sup>17</sup> for life's twisted journey. We have seen the ins and outs of his ministry as he accompanies Jesus, which brings us to this dialogue between the two. Peter is asked three times if he loves Jesus, which to all he replies in the affirmative. In this piece, the two of them are portrayed as sheep, Peter being at the right hand of Jesus. The sheep are branded with Agyinduwura<sup>18</sup> at the center of their chests. They carry with them a symbol of loyalty and faithfulness. They are loyal to Jesus, faithful to the promise of salvation, and accepting of their duty to carry the Good News with them to the people of Christ. The face of each sheep is the symbol Kokuromotie<sup>19</sup> to represent cooperation and harmony. Jesus asking Peter to feed his sheep demonstrates the faith that Jesus has in Peter to do this work. This value of cooperation is also present in the Mpatapo-shaped<sup>20</sup> flowers in the field. They are symbols of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Remember, Peter denied his relationship with Jesus several times before Jesus was executed. Above the sheep sits Kojo Baiden.<sup>21</sup> God has traditionally been represented as the sun in various cultures, which brings us to this omnipresent symbol operating as such in this piece. And to the left we see Akoma,<sup>22</sup> or hearts. While we interpret the heart as

love, it is also a symbol for endurance and patience. Peter gets to this point by maintaining goodwill and faith in the message of Jesus. He stumbled through the journey and at times caused more harm than good, but Christ was also patient with him.

Here's my heart. Here are the things I care about so deeply. And you—someone who makes mistakes, doesn't follow directions, and sometimes even betrays me—you are so loved and trusted enough to keep this good work going even after I'm gone.

This is a message to all of us. It doesn't matter how poorly you may think of yourself or how others may view you. To Christ, you are beautifully and fearfully made. And Christ believes in you in spite of it all.

—Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

15 The original is a 24" x 48" canvas.

16 Spanish for "Lamb of God."

17 View the symbol and learn more about it here: [adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/nkyinkyim/](http://adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/nkyinkyim/)

18 View the symbol and learn more about it here: [adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/agyindawuru/](http://adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/agyindawuru/)

19 View the symbol and learn more about it here: [adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/kokuromotie/](http://adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/kokuromotie/)

20 View the symbol and learn more about it here: [adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/mpatapo/](http://adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/mpatapo/)

21 Also known as Abode Santann. Learn more here: [adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/abode-santann/](http://adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/abode-santann/)

22 View the symbol and learn more about it here: [adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/akoma/](http://adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/akoma/)