

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



April 3, 2022

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

May we find courage here—

courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.

May we find hope here—

hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.

May we find kindness here—

kindness that reaches across barriers of difference.

May we find truth here—

truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.

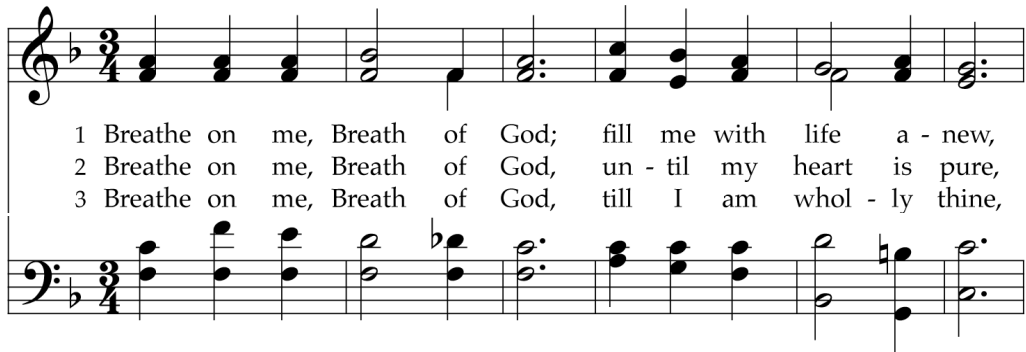
May we find all that we seek.

And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen

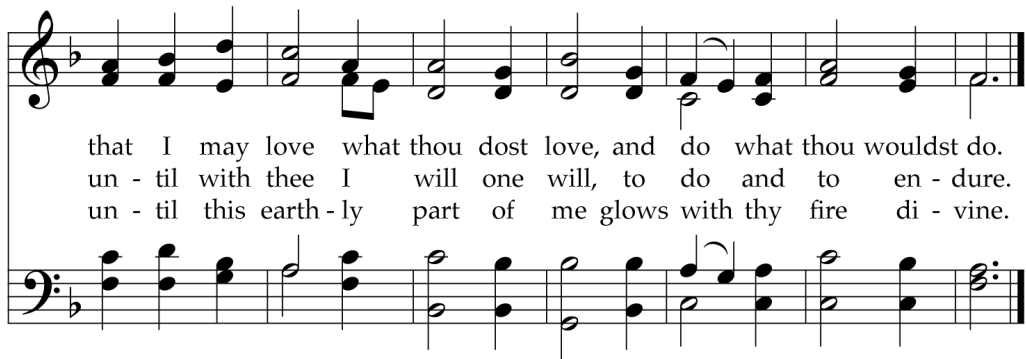
OPENING HYMN GTG 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

vs. 1-3



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Few things are as powerful as a group of people that admits they are not perfect and asks for grace as they grow. Imagine what our world might be like if every institution had such a weekly rhythm? Friends, we can light the way. Let us be brave in our truth-telling and honest in our confession, for we will always be met by grace. Let us pray. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth, we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to be kind. We want to tell the truth. This we pray. Amen

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear this good news:

Even in our silence, God loves us.

Even in our fear or shame, God chooses us.

Even when we sin, God wraps us in grace.

You are free—to be exactly who God called you to be.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, sometimes my waking is a prayer.

Sometimes the song I have stuck in my head is a prayer.

Sometimes the way I talk to the children

and the way I hug the dog is a prayer.

Sometimes the way I take my phone out to get a picture

of the sunset or of the people I love—that is a prayer.

Other times, prayer is moments like this—

heads bowed, eyes closed, hearts quiet for just a moment.

And in all of it, I trust you to hear me. Help me to hear you in return.

Gratefully we pray. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the

things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 126

When the Beloved restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then it was said among the nations,
“Their God has done great things for them.”

**The Mighty One has done great things for us,
and we rejoice.**

Restore our fortunes like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 3:10a

I want to know Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC Trio of Ukranian Works

200 musicians perform in Trafalgar Square in solidarity with Ukraine

GOSPEL READING John 12:1-8

We often read of Jesus being asked for help, or else being baited and persecuted. How often do we hear of someone simply being kind to him?

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus

said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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


SERMON

A Simple Act of Kindness

Pastor Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian *vs. 1 and 2*



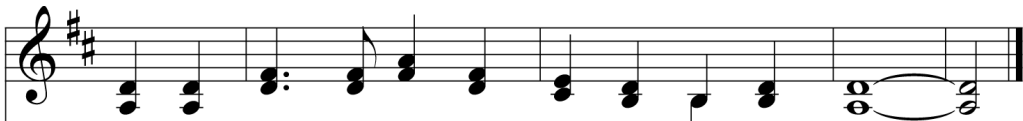
1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in beauty—

beauty pulled into being by our Creator,

beauty that turns us toward awe.

I believe in courage—

courage to believe,

courage to speak and to love without hesitation.

I believe in kindness—

kindness that risks being misunderstood,

kindness that asks for nothing in return.

I believe in the Holy Spirit

who prays for us when we cannot,

who is brave for us when we are not.

I believe in Jesus Christ

who stood up for Mary,

who quieted the voice of critique,

who welcomed every bid for relationship.

I believe in God.

I believe in God who believes in us.

Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION WITH ALL GOD'S SAINTS

INVITATION AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

Children of God, the Eternal One is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Limitless God, you know us better than we know ourselves....

Therefore we come to this table, knowing we will be filled:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father 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

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 406

We Are Standing on Holy Ground

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; let us praise Je - sus
now; we are stand - ing in his
pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

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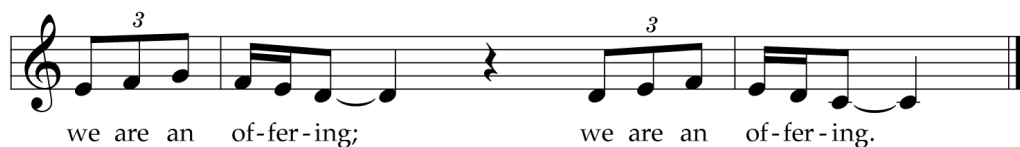
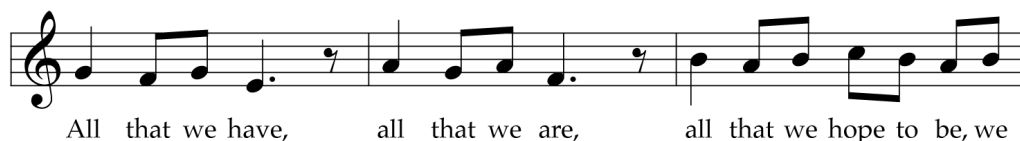
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have raised up a miracle among us, a gift of nourishment and beauty, a gift of forgiveness and your deep trust in us. Encouraged not by our worthiness but by your grace in us, we follow you, in the power of your Spirit, in ministry to the world. **Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 710

We Lift Our Voices



*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May you be dazzled by the beauty of this world.
May your laughter be contagious.
May your love overflow to those around you.
May your hope and joy spread like honey,
and may all your being fill to the brim with God’s Holy Spirit.
May it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace to love as you are loved. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE



John 12:1-8 | Isaiah 43:16-21
God is brazen in turning tears into joy. Not so long after their brother, Lazarus, dies and is raised from the dead, Mary and Martha joyfully welcome Jesus into their home. Mary pours out the fragrant perfume (perhaps originally intended to anoint her brother’s body after death) and it fills the whole room. This is a brazen act of beauty. Beauty is resistance to death; beauty is an act of love. Her anointing of Jesus’ feet is also a public act of worship. Her faith does not hide; it is not frugal. It is embodied, broken open, and poured out. This isn’t a frugal faith—it is an abundant, extravagant faith. Mary’s act is also risky—she puts her full body into it, sort of like a protest. She exhibits a shameless and brazen faith.

Per Capita

Providing the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God’s love through mission and ministry.

2022 Per Capita	
General Assembly	\$8.98
Synod	5.50
Presbytery	<u>22.02</u>
Total Per Member	\$36.50



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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, April 3

9:30 am Worship with Communion
(Onsite and Online)

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, April 5

10:00 am PW Bible Study
12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due
12:00 pm Conference Call *
6:00 pm Brain Injury Support Group
6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, March 30

6:30 am Prayer Group
7:00 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 3

9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)



Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Bonnie Kinion
Margie Petersen

To be added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 507-280-9291 or via email office@cpcrochester.org.

For emergency pastoral care, call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.

Online Worship: Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am
<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

* **Tuesday's Conference Call**

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Full to the Brim { *Brazen acts of beauty*



Brazen Beauty

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 12:1-8

Acrylic on raw canvas with digital drawing

In the chapter just before this, Lazarus dies and Jesus weeps. But after being laid in the tomb, Lazarus is raised and made well. This act solidifies for the chief priests and Pharisees that Jesus is a dangerous threat. In response, they order for his arrest and plot how they will kill him. Jesus retreats from public ministry, hiding out in the wilderness in Ephraim. As the passover nears, people begin to wonder: “*Will Jesus be here?*”

Despite the threats mounting, Jesus does return. On his way to Jerusalem, he stops in Bethany, seeking refuge and comfort in the home of his friends. Martha cooks a feast, and Lazarus—healthy and alive—joins him at the table. In resistance to death, as an act of extravagant love,

Mary anoints Jesus with a fragrance that fills the whole room. Her actions could appear impulsive, but if you were saying your last goodbye to someone you loved, how would you act?

This image began as a painting on raw canvas. With fluid strokes of paint, I allowed the colors to run and bleed into each other. As I drew Mary kneeling, I omitted the other details in the scene, removing Jesus’ feet, the other guests, the table full of food. I wanted to focus on Mary’s brazen act of pouring out the expensive perfume, a commodity valued at a year’s worth of wages. The luxurious liquid is expansive, flowing out toward us as the viewer. It bleeds into the red, foreshadowing the blood Jesus will soon shed. The vessel she holds is lined with gold, a reference to the ancient Japanese practice of Kintsugi, of repairing broken pottery with gold lacquer. The art of Kintsugi embellishes the cracks and transforms a shattered vessel into a new object of beauty. In this embodied act of worship, Mary is practicing Kintsugi—boldly celebrating the beauty of life even as death approaches.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity