

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



February 25, 2024

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

the courageous and the fearful,

the hungry and the hopeful,

the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,

the poets and the prophets,

the faithful and the tired,

the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

there is room for all to gather here.

This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

OPENING HYMN GTG 184

Calm to the Waves

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be
still." Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Calm to the Waves'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ. Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats.

And here's what I mean:

In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God.

This is our moment to crawl out of the boat.

So friends, let's be like Peter.

Join me in being courageous.

Join me in truth-telling.

Join me in prayer.

It's time to get our feet wet.

Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

**There are days that threaten to swallow us,
days when the storms of life feel too big.**

**In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,
spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.**

Forgive us for doubting ourselves.

Forgive us for doubting you.

Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,

You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you.

So hear and believe this good news:

God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, There are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.

LENTEN POETRY

Rescue Me

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

I'd rather not need rescue.
I'd prefer a five-step plan
and a quick-fix solution.
I'd prefer stubborn insistence
over honest vulnerability,
because rescue requires
asking for help.
Rescue names
the rising water.
Rescue sees
the tired, treading feet.
Rescue feels
the swell of the wind
and the rain at a slant.
But when the floor falls out
and the world is on fire
and my small hands
cannot fix the hurt welling in me,
the prayer that slips out
is rescue
rescue
rescue me.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

**All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Panis Angelicus (O Lord Most Holy)
words and music by Cesar Franck

Mark and Glenna

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Carla

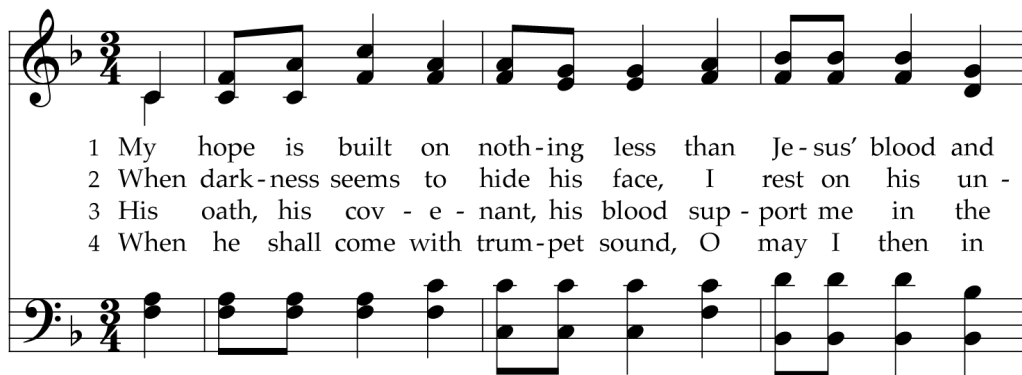
RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING

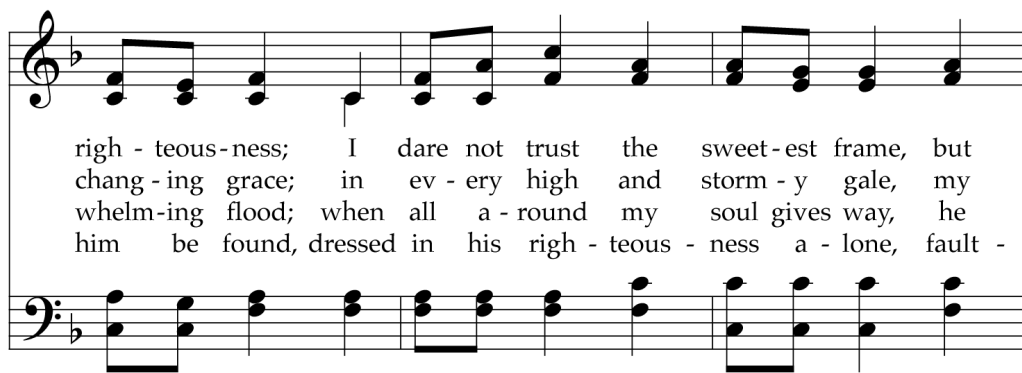
An offering plate is placed near the back of the room to receive your offerings and is available before, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

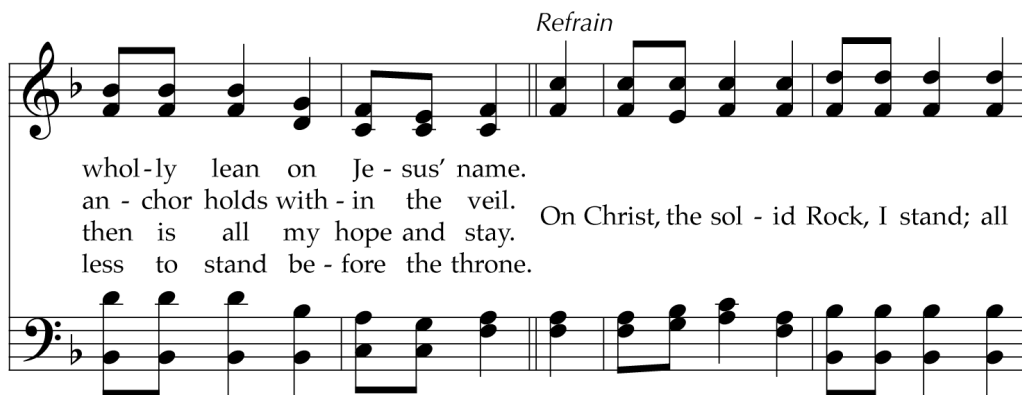


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my
whelm-ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he
him be found, dressed in his right-teous-ness a-lone, fault-

Refrain



whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be-fore the throne.



oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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 who moves toward me when storms rage.

I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.

I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.

I believe in a God who knows my name.

I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid.

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 185

Lonely the Boat



1 Lone - ly the boat, sail - ing at sea, tossed on a cold, storm-y night;
2 Strong winds a - rose in all their rage, toss - ing the ti - ny lone boat;
3 Trem - bling with fear, deep in de - spair, look - ing for help all a - round,
4 "Plead - ing for your mer - cy, O Lord, e - ven a sin - ner like me;
5 "Storms in our lives, cru - el and cold, sure - ly will a - rise a - gain,



cru - el the sea which seemed so wide, with waves so high.
waves bil - lowing high, toss - ing the boat, lost and a - float.
the sail - or saw light from a - bove. "Help can be found;
com - mand, O Lord, calm to the sea, as in Gal - i - lee!
threat - en - ing lives, threat - en - ing us on life's wild sea.



This sin - gle ship sailed the deep sea, straight in - to the gale;
The sail - or stood all a - lone, won - dering what to do;
my God is here in my small boat, stand - ing by my side;
Please save my life from all dan - ger, grant a peace - ful life;
Power - ful and great, God's hand is there, firm - ly in con - trol.



O Lord, great is the per - il; dan - gers do all as - sail.
 O Lord, so help - less was he, won - der - ing what to do.
 O I trust in the Sav - ior; now in my life a - bide.
 O please be mer - ci - ful, Lord, in times of calm and strife.
 O Lord, calm peace comes from you, peace comes to my lone soul."

* 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*.

Find *Color the words from Matthew 14:22-33 as you hear them in the worship service!*

boat *immediately* came walking
Jesus DISCIPLES crowds GOT
wind TOWARD sea CRIED
SAYING *come* MADE *water*
Peter DISMISSED

-----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.

Lift Off

by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Matthew 14:22-23

Acrylic, ink, paper collage, and mixed media on canvas

There are no street lights in the ocean. I think about that often. Rarely do we think about how dark and mysterious the night is, even for a veteran fisherman. Nor do we take into consideration the movement of the wind and its roar rumbling off of the waves.



Inside the wind tunnel in this piece, we see the West African symbol, Adinkrahene, symbolizing leadership and charisma. Peter embodies all of that when he follows Jesus onto the water. But the bottom of his foot holds the Mako. Mako reminds us that not all peppers grow the same. As charismatic and eager to impress Jesus as Peter is, he does not necessarily embody the same level of development as Jesus. The hand of Jesus reaches through the image of Asase Ye Duru, reminding us that the earth has weight. Jesus, the divine, is greater than the limitations of the flesh, the fears we carry like the uncertainty of the water. What we also see around the hand of Christ is Nyame Dua, the sacred stump symbolizing God's presence and protection. The ever-present God protected Peter from drowning. All of this storytelling is set inside the symbol of Mmusuyidee, signifying prosperity and sanctity. We are invited to maintain a hopeful outlook and persevere.

I titled this piece *Lift Off* as a nod to the 2011 Jay Z and Kanye West (ft. Beyonce) song by the same title. There is something about the opening lines, "We gon' take it to the moon, take it to the stars, how many people you know can take it this far?" that lingers in my head. The emphasis on the night sky and the deep wonder of the stars definitely influences the correlation. However, I think it also pertains to how Peter must have felt walking on water toward Jesus. No one had ever done that before. Not only was he the first, but he must have felt like he was having a deeper experience with Jesus. Who else was flying this high right then? Who else had dropped everything to live vagrantly with Christ? Before stumbling in his ways, there was something otherworldly happening, which brings me back to the stars.

Living in a metropolitan area, I don't get the luxury of stars but I like to imagine a world where the skies told their own stories. In *Lift Off*, the elements are like main characters, inspiring whimsical fantasy. Cut-out layered clouds build into the horizon of the sea. The forceful wind tunnel blows over the sinking foot of a probably panicking Peter. This is a moving piece that is meant to tell a story in any direction it is turned. Like the theme of this series, the viewer should feel like they are on a journey with Peter. *Lift Off* is intentionally dark with beautiful highlights of color and sparkle. It is because of the darkness that the colors shine bright. These two things are complimentary, not contrasting. The fear that entered Peter with the wind was most likely heightened because it was dark out. Without knowing exactly what was around him, Peter became vulnerable, thus causing him to reach out. The wonder of darkness exposes us and invites us to seek connection. We see that in the reaching hand gently entering the dark sky. —Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

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Sunday, February 25

9:30 am **Worship - Onsite and Online**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Tuesday, February 27

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, February 28

9:00 am Prayer Group this week

Thursday, February 29

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, March 3

9:30 am **Worship with Communion**
- **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
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
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Jane Burgstaler
Special Music	Mark Neville
IT Support	Louis Bouchard