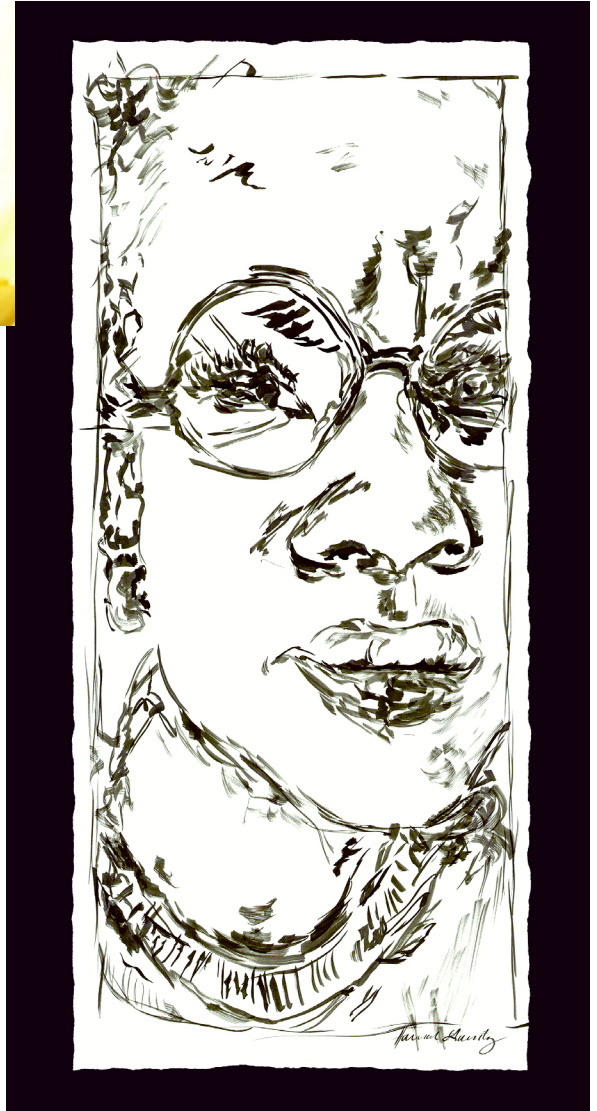




**Happy
Easter!
He is
Risen!
He is
Risen,
Indeed!**



March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Introit for Easter
by Joel Raney

CPC Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

OPENING HYMN GTG 233

The Day of Resurrection

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,
our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you." Remember. It's one of the words Jesus used at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember.

I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb.

Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember.

Join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
is nothing more than a prank.

Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you."

So, church, remember this:

You are seen.

You are forgiven.

You are held in God's grace.

All of this is true.

Grace and mercy abound for you.

Remember this.

Amen!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of new beginnings, On that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

LENTEN POETRY

Easter Morning

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

I cannot stay away on Easter Morning.
Like Peter, I would run if I could.
Stop the car, pump my arms,
take the church steps two at a time,
all to know—
Did it happen?
Did it really happen?
Is evil no match for love?
I'd slide down the center aisle.
I'd grab the mic to ask
the angels,
the heavens,
the children,
Were the stories true?

And in response, the choir would sing, "Alleluia."
The children would flower the cross.
The preacher would tell me the stone was rolled away.
The people would pass the peace,
and welcome strangers,
and make room in the pews.
And with faith over doubt,
I would hope.

For I imagine that all of that ordinary holiness
would be enough for Peter,
and it would be enough for me.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Easter Joy

CPC Choir

by Gregg Sewell

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in

Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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 Carla

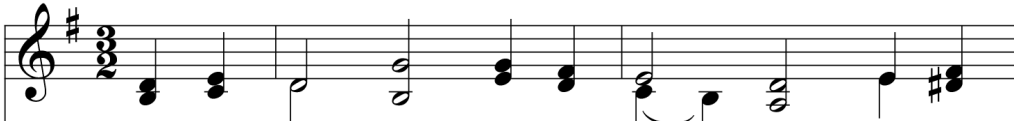
RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

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 241

Woman, Weeping in the Garden



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
 2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
 3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
 4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
 5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
 men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
 takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - dener calls you,
 joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
 oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he

bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
 wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
 "Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
 ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
 prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We may weep through the longest nights.
We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.
We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.
But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.
We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.
We believe that Jesus abides among us,
healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.
We believe that the sun does rise.
We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.

We believe that the story is not over yet,
for God is among us.
Today we are a people of hope.

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 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.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 245

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise to you by both be given,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final two lines.

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

* 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*.

Where?

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 24:1-12

Ink on paper

“But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened” (Luke 24:12).

Painted in ink on paper, Peter’s expression here is inquisitive with a touch of concern. He’s tired, but hopeful. He has just gotten amazing news. Joanna, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James relayed the message and Peter dared to believe it. The prophecy is coming true.

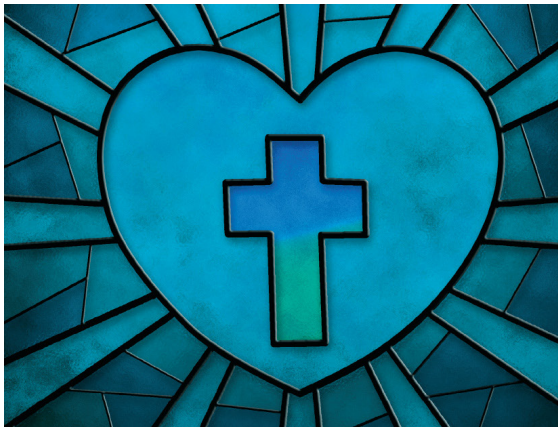
So many of the things that Jesus foretold have happened over the last few days. The most heavy on Peter’s heart are his repeated denials. Fear took over.

In contrast, now hope and joy begin to bubble up inside. He will see Jesus again! Jesus has overcome death! The prophecies have been fulfilled! Truly, God is in this place.



As I was imagining my pieces for this series, I immediately saw the emotions of the human experience reflected in Peter’s story. In order to share the energy and perspective of each emotion, I chose to brush ink on paper. On this Easter Sunday, Peter’s face peers through the sketched frame holding both a full expression and tension. Intentionally loose, the brush strokes suggest a face in motion—a glance, the beginnings of joy written in the depths of the eye, the twitch of a smile. Jesus is risen! Peter is here for it!

—Hannah Garrity



75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 31, 2024

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY —
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Repairing the Breach, Fixing What’s Broken

In Isaiah 58, God, through the voice of the prophet, calls us to be repairers of the breach — and by repairing the breach, we will, by God’s grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace.

“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.”

— Isaiah 58



RETCHE

IN THIS SEASON OF LENT,
we follow Jesus’ example;
walking alongside the most vulnerable
to partner in repairing the harm inflicted upon them.
WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER;
and we are there with those who need us.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~



HOUSE RESTORATION - VILLAT



KASUPE MINISTRIES



CARIDAD GARDENS

**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

*Restore Streets
to Live In*

**PRESBYTERIAN
HUNGER
PROGRAM**

*Share your Bread
with the Hungry*

**SELF-
DEVELOPMENT
OF PEOPLE**

*Loose the Bonds
of Injustice*

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday

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

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, April 1 Easter Monday

Office Closed

Tuesday, April 2

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due 4/7, 4/14

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, April 3

9:00 am Prayer Group

7:30 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, April 4

Stephanie is on vacation

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, April 7

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 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@cpcrochester.org.
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

Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
Special Music	CPC Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard