

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**August 18, 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 formed us into beings,  
breathing life into the dust of the earth.

**God formed us into the church,  
breathing life into human community.**

Let us keep our hearts open to the leading of Christ;  
let us keep our minds open to the movement of the Spirit,

**For God is not finished forming and re-forming.**

We are the church, who has been reformed.

We are the church, always being reformed.

**Let us worship the living God!**

### OPENING HYMN GTG 250

#### In the Bulb There Is a Flower



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Holy One, Holy Three,  
the voice of Christ beckons us to follow,  
but we cannot hear his voice over the noise we have created.  
You call us to hope, but we choose fear,  
for we would rather be safe than risk being faithful.  
You offer us freedom, but we choose independence,  
pretending that we have ultimate control.  
You offer us life, but we find ourselves perishing,  
buried by the burdens we refuse to share.  
Forgive us, God of life.  
Heal us, and bring us peace.**

Family of faith, no matter how many times you have spoken without listening,  
assumed without knowing, offered without asking,  
or rushed without waiting—  
you are forgiven.

God knows your desire and your intent.  
God knows when we try and miss the mark,  
and God surrounds us in grace.

So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Every day is a new day for love.  
We are claimed. We are forgiven.  
We are invited into relationship.  
Thanks be to God for growth and grace that know no end. Amen.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of long winters and longer summers, in the words of Paul, do your best to come to us quickly. Come to us with loud praise and joy, or appear to us in a still, small voice. Come to us through friends, or come to us through strangers.

Come to us in this text and in this hour of worship, and come to us quickly if you can. We are seeking you. We are always seeking you. With grateful hearts cracked open by love, we pray. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Job 2: 11-13

*The Message Bible*

Three of Job's friends heard of all the trouble that had fallen on him. Each traveled from his own country—Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuhah, Zophar from Naamath—and went together to Job to keep him company and comfort him. When they first caught sight of him, they couldn't believe what they saw—they hardly recognized him! They cried out in lament, ripped their robes, and dumped dirt on their heads as a sign of their grief. Then they sat with him on the ground. Seven days and nights they sat there without saying a word. They could see how rotten he felt, how deeply he was suffering.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Shelter Me* by Fr. M. Joncas

## SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4: 9-18

*The Message Bible*

Get here as fast as you can. Demas, chasing fads, went off to Thessalonica and left me here. Crescens is in Galatia province, Titus in Dalmatia. Luke is the only one here with me. Bring Mark with you; he'll be my right-hand man since I'm sending Tychicus to Ephesus. Bring the winter coat I left in Troas with Carpus; also the books and parchment notebooks.

Watch out for Alexander the coppersmith. Fiercely opposed to our Message, he caused no end of trouble. God will give him what he's got coming.

At my preliminary hearing no one stood by me. They all ran like scared rabbits. But it doesn't matter—the Master stood by me and helped me spread the Message loud and clear to those who had never heard it. I was snatched from the jaws of the lion! God's looking after me, keeping me safe in the kingdom of heaven. All praise to him, praise forever! Oh, yes!

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Pastor Carla

video: *What do you need?*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

When we love someone in need, it is easy to give. We show up with casseroles and prayer blankets. We send cards and make phone calls. We babysit the kids and drop off flowers. We don't think twice about it, because when we love someone in need, it is easy to give. In worship, when we give to the offering, what we are also declaring is that not just those

we love are worthy of our gifts, but God is worthy of our gifts, and strangers whom we have never met are worthy of our gifts.

In worship, when we give to the offering, we are declaring that all of creation deserves love and care, which is a radical notion in this hurting world.

So today, as a way to practice being in relationship and drawing closer to one another, I invite you to give to the mission and ministry of this church. For when we love, it is always easy to give.

*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 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

**Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:**

**4 A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**

**2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.**

**5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.**

**3 Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**

**6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, we give you thanks for all your blessings to us. Use these gifts we offer as a sign of your great love for the world, so that all may know and share the abundance of your grace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*paraphrased by Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

**Beloved, Center and Source of our living, whose presence is heaven,  
your holy love fills Creation.**

**May your delight be fulfilled and your Realm unfold among us,  
the visible world blossoming out of the unseen.**

**We turn to you alone for our sustenance, the bread of life each day.**

**Set us free from our failings, as we set free all who have failed us.**

**Lead us beyond our desires and save us from the grip of evil.**

**For the world is within you; all power is from you,**

**and all glory is about you in eternity, which is the present moment. Amen.**

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 321

The Church's One Foundation

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.  
2 E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,  
4 Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has un-ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.  
her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,  
she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:  
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:



From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

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# \*BENEDICTION

Family of faith,  
 as you leave this place, may God grant you  
 the curiosity to counter assumptions,  
 the vulnerability to befriend,  
 the bravery to speak your truth,  
 the wisdom to listen,  
 the strength to ask for help,  
 the resiliency to chose love, even when it's hard,  
 and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you.  
 In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself,  
 go in peace.

## POSTLUDE

*Amazing Grace*, Traditional Hymn

## Paul in Prison

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by 2 Timothy 4:9-18

Hand-carved blocks printed with oil-based ink on paper Paul's actions have returned to him. While in a position of power, as Saul, he persecuted people of faith, and now he sits alone at the end of his life, beaten and imprisoned for his own beliefs. It would make sense to me that Paul would be in turmoil, filled with guilt for his former actions, and troubled with resentment. He lists people who have abandoned him, which might have led him to instruct Timothy to right it all. However, Paul chooses another way: "May it not be counted against them!" (2 Tim. 4:16) Perhaps he is able to offer forgiveness because of the blinding forgiveness he himself received... maybe because he forgave himself too.



What does Paul need at the end of his days? He needs companionship, and he needs it quickly. He needs his cloak to wrap around his battered body and the company of books to keep his imagination engaged. He needs parchments to share his wisdom and to proclaim the Good News. He could've passed on bitterness to Timothy, but instead expresses gratitude for God's provision. I believe the foundational need of this text is the need for forgiveness. Forgiveness transforms Paul's life. It enables him to seek companionship and comfort instead of vengeance, and it is the essence of the message he carries.

In this block print, I carved Paul writing this letter to Timothy. The lines on his skin echo the twists and turns of his life while the lines on the page give him release. The cell bars obscure the view, however, the light of his halo and the power of his letter cannot be contained. His hand reaches just beyond one of the bars because in receiving forgiveness, reaching out for companionship, and letting go of guilt and resentment, he is free.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



## Establish norms

We hope you'll use these guidelines to foster courageous conversations.

Establish the following norms to maintain a safe and brave space.

- **Speak from the 'I'**—Commit to sharing what you know to be true from your lived experience. Do not make personal attacks, speak for other people, or state generalities or stereotypes. Speak only from your personal experience. Keep in mind that vulnerability begets vulnerability. If you share, it might give someone else the courage to share too.
- **Listen from the heart**—Commit to compassionate listening. Commit to receiving what your neighbors offer. Commit to a space where everyone can feel heard.
- **Step up & step back**—Remember that you are called to both speak up and step back and listen. Be mindful that you are doing both gracefully throughout the conversation. To do this, you might follow the practice of mutual invitation. When you finish sharing, invite another person to share. They can either share or say, "Pass for now," then invite someone else to speak.
- **Say more & circle back**—A helpful refrain for conversation is, "Say more." Sometimes it takes a while for each of us to articulate what we truly want to say or to find the courage to say it. If someone has shared something particularly vulnerable or raw, consider circling back with that person at another time. Check in to see if they wish to say more after having some time and space away.
- **Hold space**—Welcome moments of silence and stillness to let words and thoughts sink in. Silence can be sacred. If someone shares something that is particularly painful or emotional, resist the urge to respond in a way that could unintentionally dismiss their experience. Instead, you might say, "I hear you and I see you," or, "Thank you for sharing; you're not alone."
- **Respect boundaries**—Respect each other's boundaries and privacy by acknowledging that what you share in your conversation is to be confidential, unless permission is granted to share it otherwise. Be mindful of your own personal boundaries—you're encouraged to step into a vulnerable space, but not an unsafe one. Share only what you feel safe sharing.
- **Stay curious**—Curiosity is a spiritual practice. If you don't fully understand someone's experience, get curious to learn more. You might ask: "Can you tell me more about how that made you feel?" Or, more plainly, lean on the questions in our series: "Where are you hurting right now?" "What do you need?"

# Community Presbyterian Church

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**Sunday, August 18**

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

**2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios**

**Tuesday, August 20**

**12:00 pm Items for the Bulletin are due**

**7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network**

**Wednesday, August 21**

**9:00 am Prayer Group**

**Thursday, August 22**

**5:00 pm Building Usage: Private Party**

**5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios  
(Outside)**

**Sunday, August 25**

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

**2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios**



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
especially daughters Jenny & Elissa  
Connie Holst

Vera Atkinson, Karen and Pastor  
Carla and their family

The family of Ron Murray

Dick Massaro

Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline

Roland Ronningen and his parents

Frank Jones

*To be added to the prayer list, please  
contact the pastor: [pastor@cpcrochester.org](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org).  
org or the office: 507-280-9291 or via  
email: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto: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	Margie Petersen
Special Music	Mark Neville,
	Nellie Brovold, and Judy Kereakos
IT Support	Louis Bouchard