

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

January 5, 2025

Welcome to worship
this morning!

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

* indicates please stand, if able



WELCOME AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Left= piano side of room, Right = Kitchen side

Liturgist: How did you get here?
Left: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.
Right: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.
Left: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.
Right: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.
All: I crawled, kissing the earth below me.
Liturgist: Tell me again. How did you get here?
All: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.
Liturgist: Welcome home.
This is God's house.
There is room for you here.
All: Let us worship our gracious God.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, one of the gifts of confession is it allows us to begin again.

For in this moment of prayer,

we name our shortcomings and mistakes.

We receive God's grace,

and we start again.

The slate is wiped clean.

The prayer of confession is an act of beginning again and again and again.

So join me in prayer. For even here, God is already doing something new.

Let us begin again. Let us pray:

God of new beginnings,

We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,

simply because others have been there before.

Sometimes this is holy and humble,

but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.

On those new-beginning days, O God,

give us the courage to follow your star.

Give us the courage to go home by another way.

Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction

for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.

For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow.

With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.

Amen.

Dear travelers,

No matter the roads you've taken,

the steps you've made,

or the paths you've traveled,

there is nowhere you could go

that would land you outside of God's love.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Regardless of the path we travel,

of how lost we may get,

or the twists and turns along the way,

we do not walk alone.

We are loved. We are forgiven.

We have every chance to begin again.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of starlight, We long to follow you. Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction. Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here. Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here. So just as you guided the Magi, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts we pray, **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for

the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The mystery of the ages revealed to the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Tim

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

With joyful and radiant hearts, we gratefully give who we are and what we have to God.

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 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

**In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen,
snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**3 Angels and archangels
may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**4 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. **Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of starlight, God of new beginnings, We are so grateful. We are so grateful to be here, at the start of a new year, fresh off the press. We are so grateful to be here, at the start of a new week, gathered in community. We are so grateful to begin again. So here at this beginning, we bring you our prayers.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
let us pray for the life of the world,
saying: O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . .
Shape us through the mystery of your will
into one body, one people,
sharing in the promise of the gospel.
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . .
Work out your eternal purpose among us,
so that the nations may be reconciled
and all peoples may live in peace.
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . .
Lift up the hearts of those who mourn;
let them rejoice in your presence
and give thanks for your grace.
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . .
Defend the cause of the poor,
deliver the weak and needy,
and establish justice in this place.

We invite you to name your prayers for this community.
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world,
help us to bear witness to your light
so that all may believe and have life in you;
in your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION WITH ALL GOD'S SAINTS

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: We look to you and we are radiant; we thrill and rejoice
as nations come to your light and leaders welcome your dawning. You call us to arise, and
shine, for your glory has risen upon us.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:
A Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy") is sung.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GTG 572

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, the fourth staff the fourth line, and the fifth staff the fifth line. The music is written in a clear, legible font, and the lyrics are centered under the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: With the ancient Magi, we come to pay him homage; we give him the treasures of our hearts, our lives. As his star shines down upon us, we are overwhelmed with joy.

The words of institution are included here.

Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

By your Spirit, make us bold and confident in our faith, as you reveal to us the mystery of ages, your plan for the world— to bring all peoples to the knowledge of your grace in Jesus Christ.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, 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 137

He Came Down



came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Additional stanzas: ... that we may have light ... that we may have joy

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giving God, as kings offered their gifts to the boy Jesus, you have offered yourself to the world through the body and blood of Christ. Thank you for this foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Let our lives embody your justice and righteousness to all people. With thankful hearts we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 132

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

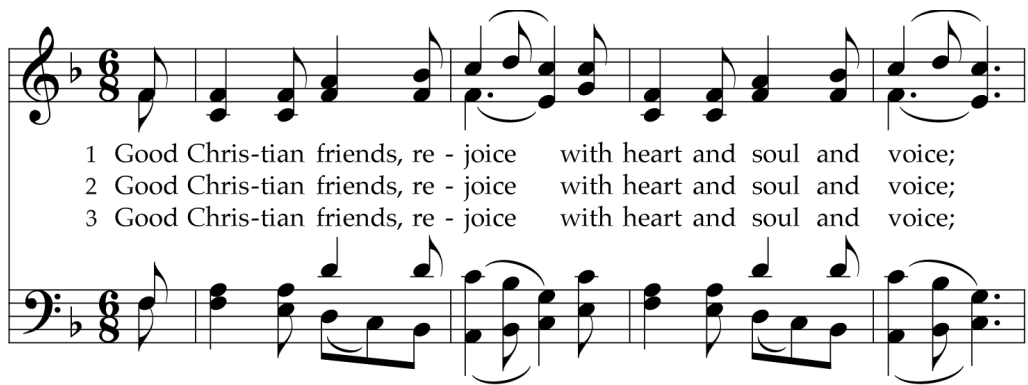
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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
 May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
 the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
 and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
 For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.
 So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again.
 In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

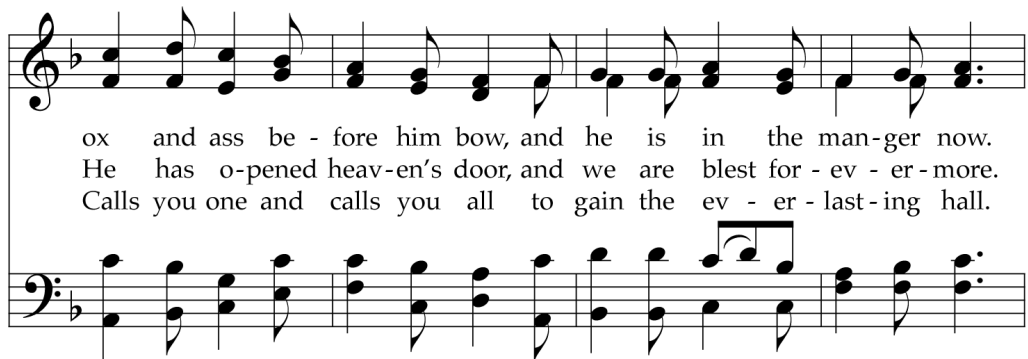
POSTLUDE



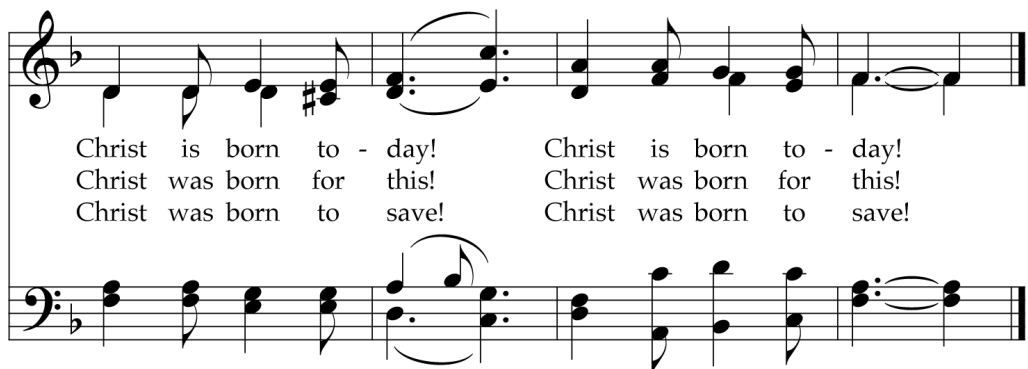
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last-ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, January 5

9:30 am Worship with Communion
- Onsite and Online

**Stay after worship for a short
discussion about a pastor!**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, January 6-Wednesday, January 8
Office Closed

Tuesday, January 7

12:00 pm Items for the Bulletin are due

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, January 8

9:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Choir

7:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 9

5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Friday, January 10

6:00 pm Building Usage: SE MN ASD Group

Sunday, January 12

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

12:00 pm Items for the Annual Report Due

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

ANNUAL MEETING



CPC Annual Meeting

After Worship on Sunday, January 26



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughters Jenny & Elissa

Connie Holst

Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline

Sage Hall

Jennifer Hall

*To be added to the prayer list, please con-
tact the office: 507-280-9291 or via email:
office@cpcrochester.org.*

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher

Rev. Tim Gerarden

Guest Pianist

Kristy Giere

Liturgist

Sue Chipman

Special Music

IT Support

Louis Bouchard

Church Staff

Music Director

Jennifer Taylor

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch

Star of Bethlehem

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12

Acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas

They come from afar. I imagine the Magi as queens of wisdom, wealth, and power, bringing their entourage, a vast number of people, to care for them. They protect the Magi on their journey over the dunes and around the twists and turns, ensuring they arrive safely.

They come to pay homage to the baby, the holy child. In this Words for the Beginning series, I began each painting with a circular energy. There is a central focus to each design. Each painting has an original quilt square pattern which repeats as the border. The center design is a different iteration of the same idea. For this design, the main motif is the star of Bethlehem. The Bible pages of Matthew 2 are torn apart and glued as a texture within the star points, representing our need to constantly break down fear in service to the God who calls us into a fearless life of love. The star pattern is overlaid in chalk and soft pastel, reiterating the power of God as our guide—who, in this text, is showing the way home by another road.

In our own lives and communities, each of us is vulnerable to political corruption. How are we responding? Whom do we follow as our guide? God calls the Magi home by another road, and their choice to heed the call opens space for Jesus' ministry within the community, which will demonstrate the power of steadfast love. Shortly thereafter, God calls Mary and Joseph to journey to another land, to protect the Messiah until they are safe to return home. What parallels do we see in our own systems, and in our own lives?

In this text, the Magi are dreaming my dreams. The imperial power threatens to kill the long-awaited Messiah. These kinds of threats exist in our own lives too. The Magi seek another way home. I dream of the winding road that is God's call. The road isn't straight. Can you see your next bend?

—Hannah Garrity



For the past several months, the Session members of CPC (Ivy Pillers, Sherrie Wilson, Aaron Simms, Lyal Powell, Sue Chipman, and Amanda Ross) have been meeting with the Session members of Plainview Community Presbyterian Church. Both churches are pursuing a part time pastoral position, so the conversations have been about how to possibly share a full-time pastor between the two churches. These meetings have been occurring monthly, rotating between the two churches, and always include a shared fellowship meal prior to the meeting. Session wants to provide this update to members to keep you informed.

The most recent step forward is the development of a document called the Ministerial Discernment Profile, or MDP. This document is designed to inform prospective pastors of what our church is about, and key characteristics of what we are seeking in our pastor. Plainview CPC has also developed their MDP, and at our most recent meeting we looked at how closely aligned our two MDPs are in terms of our highest priorities for a pastor. Here is the list of the 5 most important characteristics that both Sessions had in common:

- Empathetic – pastor should have genuine empathy;
- Visionary – pastor has ability to share a vision of the future church and help the congregation move towards that vision;
- Leads Change – Somewhat similar to Visionary;
- Good Listener – pastor can be an active listener when communicating with congregants; and
- Problem Solver – pastor can be creative when considering an issue and the ability to work with the congregation to address it

Your Session is interested in hearing your feedback on these 5 top characteristics, so please reach out to any of them. They will be meeting again later in January with the Plainview Session to finalize the two MDPs, with the goal of having the full time position advertised in February.

selfless leader
humility action
servant
leadership
good-listener open-minded
ethical role-model