

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



March 9, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn?

Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

OPENING HYMN

I Saw a Stranger



I saw a stran - ger on the road in need of help and
I laid there des - perate by the road in need of help and
In our em - brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's



care No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man
care As one by one they passed me by, too bu - sy
dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom



flesh laid bare A thought had flut - tered through my
or too scared Then one ap - proached and my first
I can trust The ar - ti - fi - cial walls we



mind: "Is this one of my own?" My tri - bal mind
thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To my sur - prise
build a - round the tribes we claim Make us for - get

14



made me for - get that they're bone of my bone
they met my eyes and held me in their arms
the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done. Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation. When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change. So join me in the prayer of confession. Join me now, so that tomorrow, we will be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,

When we set limits on love,

God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,

God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,

God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, We love to ask you questions. We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long. But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land. With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 91:1-2,9-16

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,

**no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;

**they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the cobra;

you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Tim Gerarden

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts— and use our lives— to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus
as we pray for the world he came to save,
saying: Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer...**

As we pour out our hearts in prayer, O God,
lead us to pour out our lives in service to you—
ever seeking your will, ever following your way;
all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 515

I Come with Joy

next page

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I Come with Joy

515



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



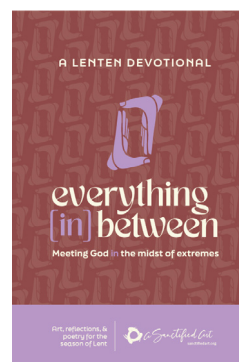
free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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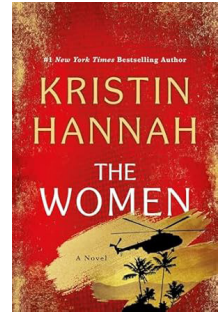
Printed Lenten Devotionals are available today. A pack of Daily Devotional Cards can also be picked up today. These include a question and a prayer for each day. These cards will be used as a resource for the Daily Texts. If you'd like to receive messages for Daily Texts: A) If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: rmd.at/ga2hfb Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app. B) If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications. Text the message @ga2hfb to the number 81010. If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @ga2hfb to (608)467-4108. Note: you'll be asked if you are a student (s) or a parent (p). Choose either one. The application was designed for schools, but will work for our purposes. If you received daily texts in the past, you're likely still on the list and you don't need to re-sign up.
* Standard text message rates apply.



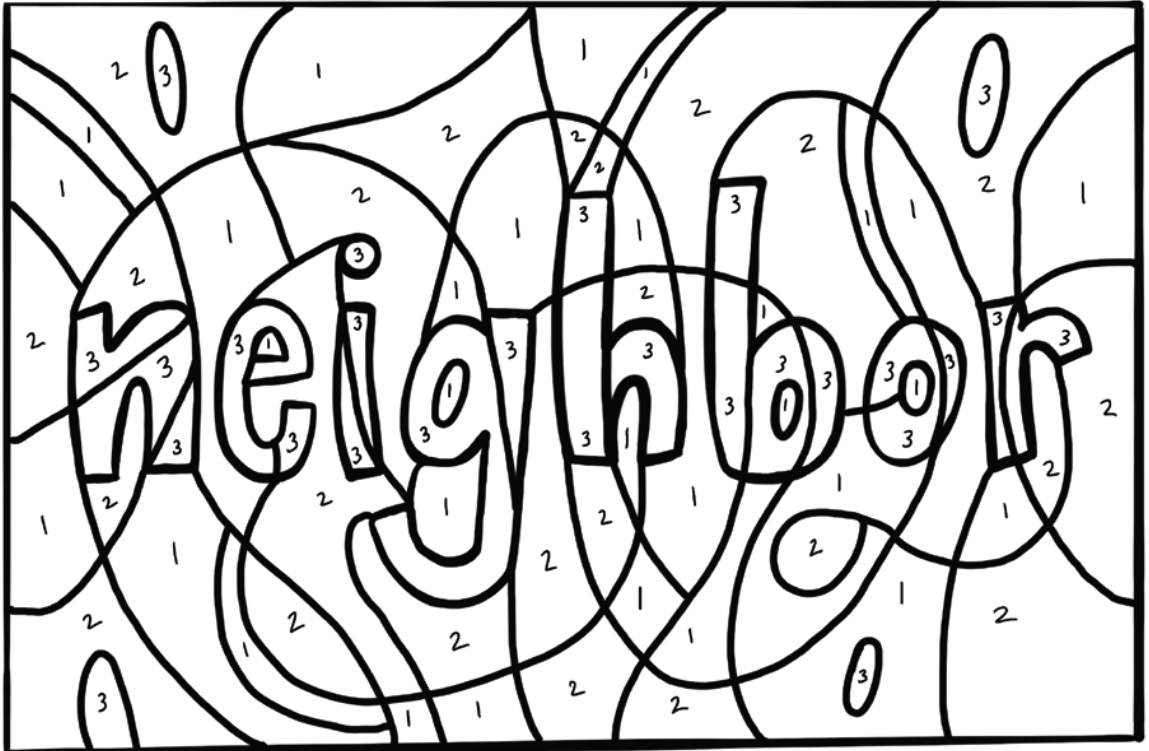


Developed for the PCOSDA by Illustrated Ministry (IllustratedMinistry) to celebrate Mr. Rogers Day - March 20

Don't miss Mr. Rogers Sunday - March 23rd. Bring your inside shoes and wear a cardigan - join in this shared worship with Plainview CPC. If you are interested in being a puppeteer, please talk with Ivy!



On Sunday, March 16th, the book discussion group will meet and discuss *The Women* by Kristen Hannah after worship.



The parable of the Good Samaritan, told by Jesus in Luke 10, reminds us to love thy....
To find the answer, fill in the image by coloring 1 BLUE, 2 GREEN, and 3 YELLOW.

Artwork on the Cover of the Bulletin:

Neighbors

by Steve Prince

Inspired by Luke 10:25-37

Ink on paper

Each individual carries generations within them, made up of billions of people who have occupied this earth before us. We have an individual and collective responsibility to be good stewards (Good Samaritans) of our bodies, neighbors, and communities, rooted in love. Every day we make a dance of life and death—celebrating the entrance and exit of life, the progression of age and maturity, and the expansion of our tent, grafting to people who share our blood and our beliefs. We are the structures, those temporal buildings that weather the storms, that creak and wither away daily, but are fortified by our relationships to each other and with the sharing of the good news planted by the Heavenly Father. This dance is an open profession of our vow to live by God's commandments and find a way to collectively preserve the truth of our origin while moving as one communal body into an untouched future. —Steve Prince



Prompts for contemplation

- Observe the figures' posture and movement. Do you see connection, conflict, or both? How does this reflect your own relationships?
- Focus on the textures and shading. What story might these elements tell about resilience or fragility?
- Pay attention to the empty spaces around the figures. What do these spaces evoke for you?
- Imagine yourself as part of this scene. What role would you play in this dance of connection, tension, and movement?



everything
[in] between
stranger & neighbor

NEVER MET A STRANGER

When we talk about God, we say
she's never met a stranger.
She makes friends at the airport.
She waves to babies in the check-out line.
When we talk about God, we say
she'll leave the porch light on.
She'll have warm bread in the oven.
She'll have all the time in the world.
When we talk about God, we say
she'll look you in the eye.
She'll love you as you are.
She'll call you by your name.
When we talk about God,
we never have to talk about
which side of the road she might walk down.
Wherever you are,
that's where she'll be.

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Sunday, March 9

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Monday, March 10

6:00 pm Great Room Use: Med-City Tai Chi

Tuesday, March 11

9:30 am PW Bible Study resumes

12:00 pm Items for the Bulletin are due

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, March 12

9:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

7:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 13

5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Friday, March 14

6:30 pm Library/Great Room Use:
SEMN ASD Group

Sunday, March 16

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

Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline

Sage Hall

Jennifer Hall

The family of Larse Pillers

Ronda Marshall's mother, Donna

Sue Chipman's husband, Ken

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

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher Rev. Tim Gerarden

Guest Pianist Judy Kereakos

Liturgist Mark Neville

IT Support Louis Bouchard

Church Staff

Music Director Jennifer Taylor

Custodian Nancy Sanford

Office Manager Stephanie Pasch