



April 20, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

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





free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
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.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ Jesus comes among us with extended hands and a wide embrace, offering mercy and forgiveness and promising new life. Trusting in the one who has been raised from the dead, let us make our confession.

**O God, your love is boundless  
and your grace exceeds our imaginations.  
You keep finding ways to be among us,  
even when the doors of our hearts are locked.  
Graciously, you seek us out.  
We cannot hide,  
but we can confess that sin has us in its grip.  
It has led us from your ways  
and corrupted our best intentions,  
tempting us to believe that you don't notice,  
that you aren't even present.  
Correct our vision.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Create in us a place where we can welcome you  
and receive the fullness  
of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the power of sin has been defeated. God's love is stronger still. This is good news!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, Living Word, as you revealed yourself to Mary that Easter morning, so reveal yourself to us. By the power of your Spirit, give each of us faith, that hearing your Word we, too, may proclaim, "I have seen the Lord!" **Amen.**

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 118:14-29

*Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill

You are my strength and my song;

**You are my Counselor and my Friend.**

Harken to songs of victory, to the music of my soul:

**"You, O loving Presence, have been my strength,**

**You have stood beside me in the darkness,**

**You have walked with me into the light!"**

I shall not give in to fear,

but I shall live in peace and give witness to your saving grace.

**You turned your face from my weaknesses, and**

**You opened the door leading to new life.**

Yes, You opened to me the gates of truth and justice that I might enter through them.

**Praise be to You, O Merciful One!**

This is the Door to Life;

**those who know Love shall enter through It.**

I give thanks to You, O Beloved,

who answer our prayers and invite us to new Life.

**The stone which the builders rejected has become the foundation of our lives.**

This, O Eternal Listener, is your Work;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day which You have made;**

**let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Remain ever by our side, O Friend!

**We welcome You into our hearts as Loving Companion Presence!**

Blessed are all who enter through your gates!

**Blessed are all who swell in the house of Love!**

For You lead the Way,

You forgive our misguided ways, and You bring Light into darkness.

**Come, all you who will, partake of the Great Banquet!**

You are my Beloved, and I will give thanks to You:

**You are my Beloved, greatly will I praise you!**

We give thanks to You, O Blessed One,

**for You are kind; your steadfast Love endures for ever!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.  
Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Instruments of Your Peace*

CPC Choir

Words and Music by Kirk & Deby Dearman

Arranged by Bruce Greer

*Lord, make us instruments, Lord, make us instruments,*

*Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.*

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace;*

*Where there is hatred let Your love increase.*

*Lord, make us instruments of Your peace;  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease,  
When we are You instruments of peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow His love.  
Where there is injury, we will never judge.  
Where there is striving, we will speak His peace  
To the people crying for release,  
We will be His instruments of peace.*

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace;  
Where there is hatred let Your love increase.  
Lord, make us instruments of Your peace;  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease,  
When we are You instruments of peace.*

*Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight.  
Where there is darkness, we will shine His light,  
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief.  
For the millions crying for relief,  
We will be His instruments of peace.*

*Lord, make us instruments of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred let Your love increase.  
Lord, make us instruments of Your peace;  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease,  
When we are Your instruments of peace.  
Lord, make us instruments, Lord, make us instruments,  
Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.*

#### GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

These words are trustworthy and true.

**Thanks be to God.**

Guest Speaker

Holly Fifield, *The Landing* Co-founder and Vice Chair

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

As God gave us Christ, the firstfruit of creation, let us humbly offer the substance of our lives in thanksgiving to our 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 817      We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

# 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world— giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord **Amen**.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing in God's promise of new creation, let us pray to the Maker of heaven and earth, saying: God of new life, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for the church . . .

Empower us, by your Holy Spirit, to seek the grace and peace of Christ in the church and in the world. God of new life, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for the world . . .

Heal this scarred and wounded earth so that the whole creation may praise you with one breath and one voice. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . .

Make us better neighbors to one another. Unlock the doors we close in fear and teach us to transcend dividing walls. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . .

Save those who are sick or in trouble. Hold them in your powerful hand and deliver them from danger. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the coming of your holy realm of peace, when we will share abundant life with you; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

#### SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 366

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

*next page*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The blessing of the eternal, triune God—

Alpha and Omega, first and last, beginning and end—

be with you all.

**Alleluia!**

Come, Lord Jesus! **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Today we welcome Holly Fifield from The Landing in downtown Rochester as our special guest and speaker. Holly is the Vice-Chair and Co-Founder of The Landing. There will be a special coffee hour after worship. “We look forward to visiting with you on April 27th and sharing some updates and dreams for the future.”



*Spring Fling will be Sunday, May 4th after worship. Plan to spend part of the day at CPC doing cleanup and repair projects around the church! Many hands make light work! After the work is done, stay for a bite to eat!*

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**Sunday, April 27**

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

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

**Tuesday, April 29**

12:00 pm Items for the Bulletin are due

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

**Wednesday, April 23**

9:00 am NO Prayer Group

6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

7:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 24**

5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

**Sunday, April 27**

**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

Jennifer Hall and Sage Hall

Bill and Ronda Marshall and family

Shannon Cisewski

Amy Ward and family

Sherrie Wilson

*To be added to the prayer list, please contact the office: 507-280-9291 or via email: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).*

## Serving in Worship Today

Guest Speaker	Holly Fifield
Guest Pianist	Kristy Giere
Liturgist	Amanda Ross
IT Support	Louis Bouchard & Bruce Felger

## Church Staff

Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch