

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



August 3, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Give Thanks

arr. by Krentz Organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gathered in from many lands,

we come from east and west, from north and south.

Some of us have wandered through deserts.

Some of us are hungry and thirsty.

But the Holy One heard our pleas

and has delivered us from our distress.

So we come with prayers of thanksgiving,

for God's steadfast love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Justice, we gather from all corners of the world knowing that you have made a new world possible even as we hold on to the old world. We pray for those in places where greed and evil still reign, for those who are still full of anger and wrath for those who still act with malice, for those who still use abusive language, for those who still lie to others, and for those who hoard treasures on earth. We pray with the knowledge that sometimes, this is us. Don't give us up now. Clothe us with a new self according to your image so that one day there will be no more divisions among us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN GTG 612

We Praise You, O God

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Praise is on our lips, but in our hearts we know how far we have fallen from the glory of God. Yet God meets us in our sin, picks us up, and promises forgiveness. Let us make our confession and open ourselves to God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God,
 we confess our faithlessness.
 Our hearts are fickle, our eyes wander,
 and we trick ourselves into serving other gods.**

**We speak lies, accept lies, live lies,
destroying others and ourselves along the way.
Forgive our waywardness and lead us back to you.
Embolden our trust in your faithfulness
and settle your truth in our hearts.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's steadfast love endures forever. Beyond the cross, beyond the grave, beyond our sin,
God's steadfast love endures forever. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us
by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-23

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to
those who come after me ¹⁹ —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet
they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also
is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors
under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and
skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and
a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under
the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night
their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 49:1-12

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear,
all you who dwell in the world,
**you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**

My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**

One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
**for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.

**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

Their graves shall be their homes forever,
their dwelling places from generation to generation,
though they had named lands after themselves.

**Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

These words are trustworthy and true. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Elaine Siemsen

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

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 647 Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

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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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear (*especially*). Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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: You have loved us from the beginning, teaching us to live and walk in faith, showing great compassion when we fall.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!

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Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:
Through parables, Jesus has taught us
not to store up worldly wealth for ourselves
but to trust in the generosity of God.

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.

Set our minds on things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at your right hand.
Let Christ Jesus be our all in all.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celtic Version, <https://www.earthandsoul.org/prayers>

**Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever.
Amen**

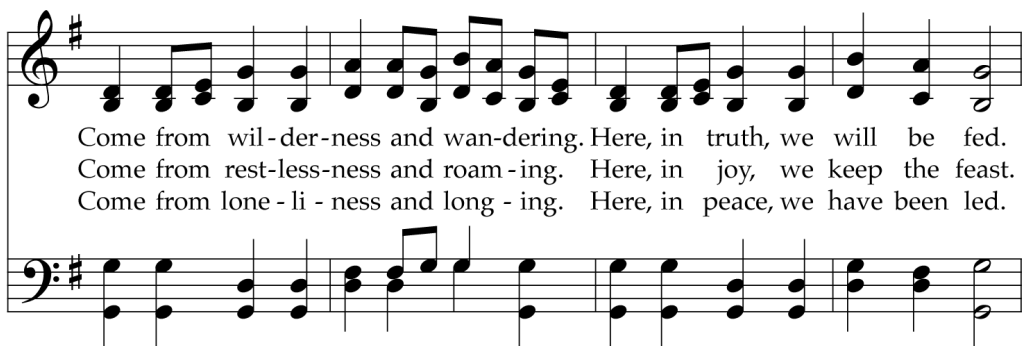
THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

*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 509 *All Who Hunger*



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our Mother, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Blessing and honor and glory to you, holy, holy, holy Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 515

I Come With Joy

next page

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The kingdom of God, the power of Christ, and the glory of the Spirit be with you forever. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love the Lord your God
and love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

All Creatures/Shaker Song

arr. Porter

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
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
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.

Sunday, August 17, CPC Rochester will travel to CPC Plainview for a Joint Worship Service. The service will begin at 10 am.

Sign up to carpool to Plainview in the narthex. Please gather at CPC at 9 am. We will plan to leave CPC Rochester by 9:15 to get to CPC Plainview in plenty of time!

Livestream information is available in the newsletter. There will be no service at CPC Rochester on August 17.



Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



Sunday, August 3

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

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Monday - Friday

8:30 am Great Room Use: Med-City Driving

Tuesday, August 5

12:00 pm Bulletins Announcements Due

7:00 pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Net.

Thursday, August 7

5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Friday, August 8

6:30 pm Great Room Use: SE MN ASD
Social Group

Sunday, August 10

**9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
with Baptism of Zoey Copeland**

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughters Jenny & Elissa
Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline
Jennifer Hall and Sage Hall
Amy Ward and family
Sherrie Wilson
Vera Atkinson

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

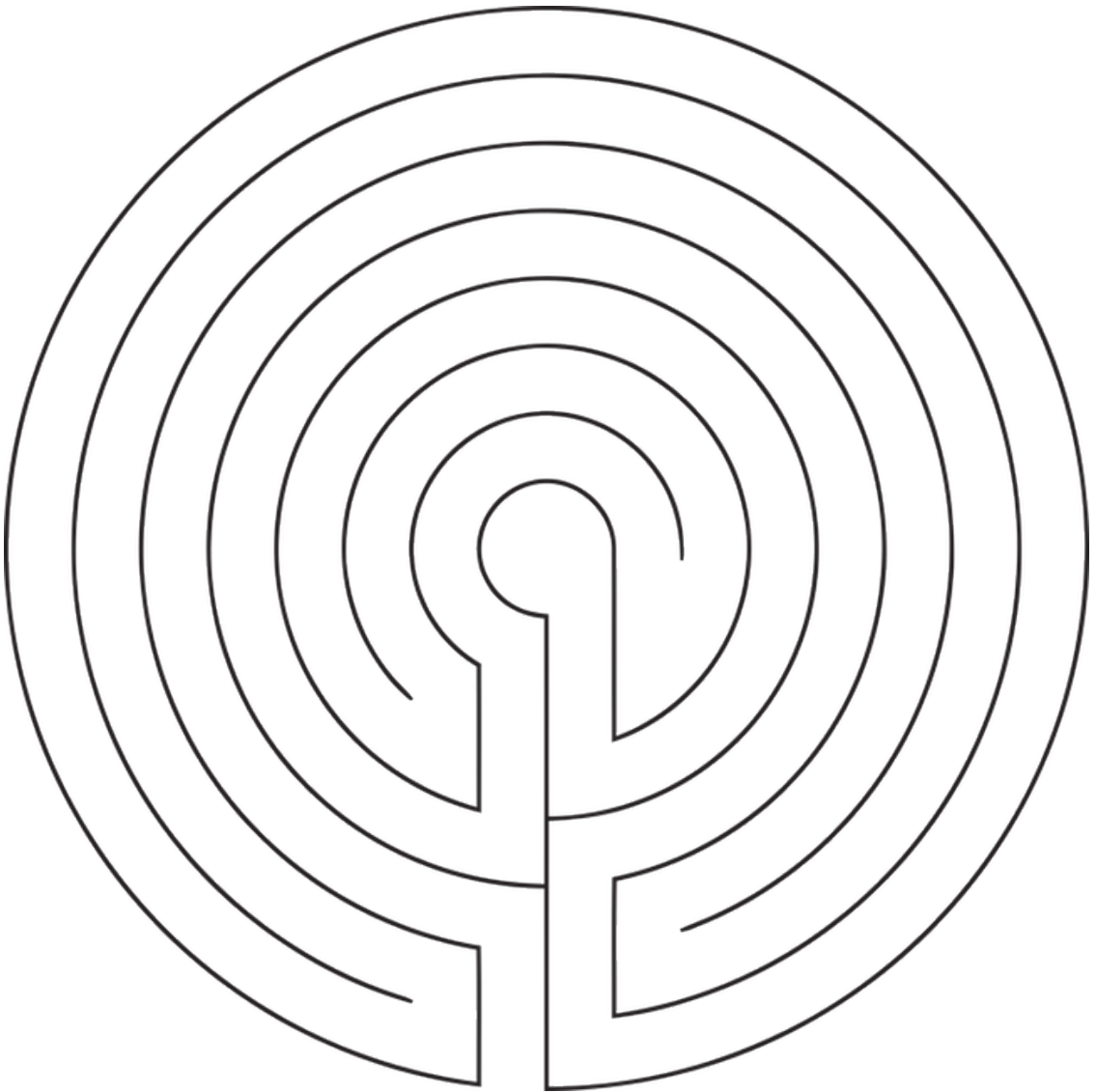
Serving in Worship Today

Guest Pastor	Rev. Dr. Elaine Siemsen
Guest Pianist	Ruth Monson
Liturgist	Margie Petersen
IT Support	Louis Bouchard & Bruce Felger

Church Staff

Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

A finger (or use a pencil or crayon) prayer labyrinth to aid in your prayer life...



Suggestion for using a prayer labyrinth:

Begin at the entrance, centering yourself. Consider the prayers you will bring to your labyrinth journey. Joys and celebrations? Concerns? Thanksgivings? Offer the prayers as you move toward the center of the labyrinth. Remain at the center as long as you wish, listening, receiving gifts of insight and peace. Return to the labyrinth's edge, offering thanks, both for the letting go and the receiving.