

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



October 19, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We lift up our eyes to the hills — from where will our help come?

Our help comes not from the hills, but from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message;

be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

With endurance, expectation, and joy, let us worship the living God!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy and justice, you administer to each according to your grace and not according to what we deserve. Keep from us all evil, the evil we commit and the evil committed by others. Preserve us by your providence, all for the sake of your holy name.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN GTG 45

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

1 I to the hills will lift my eyes; from
2 God will not let your foot be moved; your
3 Your faith - ful keep - er is the Lord, your
4 From e - vil God will keep you safe, pro -

whence shall come my aid? My help is from the
guard - ian nev - er sleeps; God's watch - ful and un -
shel - ter and your shade. 'Neath sun or moon, by
vide for all you need. Your go - ing out, your



CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Word of God, Jesus Christ
 leads the way to salvation through faith.
 In turning to the Lord with humility,
 and trusting in his love,
 we confess our sin and the sins of the world.

Grace-filled God,

**we confess that we pursue our own needs,
 neglecting the needs of others.**

**We pursue our own desires,
 while slowly destroying the gifts of your creation.**

**We deflect the call to ministry,
 ignoring the cries of those in need.**

**We are drawn to proclaim the gospel,
 yet live it out only at our convenience.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

**Open our eyes to the truth of the gospel
 that, whatever the time or wherever we are,
 we may fully embody your love and justice for all the world.**

Whoever we are, wherever we are, however we are, we belong to God.
 Through Jesus Christ, God cleanses us from all unrighteousness and leads us from sin.
 People of God, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

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

Genesis 32:22–31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Music by Don Besig

*When you feel discouraged,
When you're lost and alone,
Ask the Lord to help you.
God will claim you as God's own.
If you need to find an answer,
God will hear your silent prayer.
Anywhere life leads you,
You will find God always there.*

*When your life seems empty,
Let God take your hand.
God will not forsake you,
God will help you understand.
With a heart that's always open,
With a love that has no end,
God will stand beside us.
God's our Master and our Friend.*

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear.
We should never be discouraged.
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness.
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*What a friend we have in Jesus.
He is always at our side.
Oh, what joy and peace it brings us
Knowing He will be our guide.
You must follow where He leads you;
And He will not let you stray,
What a friend we have in Jesus.
Give your heart to Him today.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

SERMON

Commentary by Meda Stamper, Leicestershire, England

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Every good gift comes from God. We are invited to respond in gratitude, giving freely and generously, just as we have received.

An offering plate is placed near the door to the church to receive your offerings and is available before, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 460 Break Thou the Bread of Life

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The score begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence in the fourth system.

1 Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
2 Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now un - to me,

as thou didst break the loaves be - side the sea.
as thou didst bless the bread by Gal - i - lee.

Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord.
Then shall all bond - age cease, all fet - ters fall.

My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing Word!
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have chosen the poverty of the world to make your people rich in faith. Help us to put our faith into practice through the offering of our lives— giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/ LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You created the heavens and the earth and placed us in your world to glorify and enjoy you forever.

And yet we have recognized the despair, dismay, and injustice; the violence and the disasters of the world in which we live. We seek to be faithful to you and your glory and yet, our hearts and souls are unsettled and troubled. We come to you in need of the healing and peace that only you can provide.

And so, we pray for rest. We pray for rest for those weary from the demands of a culture that has turned us into consumers. Rest for those weary from unmet requests and unjust treatment. Rest and healing for those weary from illness, grief, loneliness, and loss.

We pray for attention. We pray for attention for those distracted by too many good things. We pray for attention for those who feel like a pinball instead of a plant with roots running deep. We pray for attention to your gifts of grace that we might know delight.

We pray to say no. We pray to say no to destructive forces and idols that pull us away from you, O Lord. We pray to say no to the ways we take your creation for granted and destroy what you have placed in our care. We pray to say no to all that addicts us to unhealthy behaviors and relationships.

We pray for nourishment. We pray that we might nourish our souls with your Word. We pray that we might nourish our bodies with fruits, vegetables and exercise. We pray that we might nourish our minds with the truth.

We pray for the log in our eyes. We confess that we are overly concerned with the behavior and belief of others. We confess that we fail to accurately see our own faults and failings. We confess that we pull back from others instead of working together for justice, freedom, and peace.

We pray that you might speak to us. We pray that your Word might dwell within us and be engraved upon our hearts. We pray for the right words to speak in troubled times. We pray that your Spirit might give us eyes to see and ears to hear the new Word you are still speaking today.

We pray for wonder and awe. We pray that beyond our hope and imagination, you might bring peace to war-torn lands. We pray that you might surprise us in the ordinary after long waits. We pray that we might see your fingerprints in our own. Finally, we pray for all those needs unnamed that trouble and unsettle our souls, needs known to you and bigger than we can handle on our own. Into your hands, O Lord, we place these prayers, longing for the day when you will make all things new. As we wait with anticipation and hope, we join our voices with disciples of all the ages to pray as Jesus has taught us,

**O Divine Parent, Giver of Life,
whose presence is holiness, may our hearts be in you.
Transform the world according to your delight,
that all earth may become a holy place.
Give us each moment that moment's breath.
Give us your gift of forgiveness, that receiving it deeply we may give it freely.
Transform our desires, and free us from evil powers;
for all creation, and all power, and all beauty are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 175

Seek Ye First

next page

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

The Lord bless and keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. **Alleluia!**

Proclaim the message, be persistent in prayer, do the work of the gospel, and carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

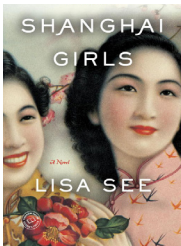
and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

All Saints Sunday, November 2: Lighting Candles for Remembrance

On Sunday November 2nd, we will remember those dear to us who have passed from this life. The worship service, including communion, will reflect our deep gratitude for God's promise of the resurrection and the eternal life that is ours in Christ. All, who wish to do so, may bring a memorial candle to be placed on a central table and lit from the Christ candle prior to the worship service. During Joys and Concerns, we will have a chance to share the names of those specially remembered in this way. Please send names of loved ones to be included in the bulletin for All Saints by October 28.



Book Discussion Group Sunday, October 19 *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See

Join in on the discussion
today after worship!

Parts of the Liturgy and Prayers written
by Matthew A. Rich and provided for
free distribution.

Parts are from *Call to Worship*.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION MEETING NOTICE

Notice from the City of Rochester: A developer is hosting a Neighborhood Information Meeting (NIM). NIMs are a means for potential developers to inform neighbors and interested community members of a proposed project in an informal setting. For more details on NIMs and the application, visit our NIM website (link below).

This meeting is for a **proposed** project; the proposal has not yet been reviewed by the City of Rochester or received any approvals. For reasonable accommodations, translations, or alternative formats, please contact Community Development.

Application Type: Site Development Plan

Project Location: Approx 400 feet SW of the intersection
of Chateau Rd NW and Villa Rd NW

Meeting Date & Time: October 21, 2025, 5:00 pm

Meeting Location: Community Presbyterian Church,
3705 Fairway Pl NW

Project Contact: Mark Welch, markw@ggg.to
507-867-1666 ext. 105



For presentation slides and virtual meeting
options, visit the NIM Website by scanning the
QR code or www.rochestermn.gov/nim



Contact Community Development at 507-328-2600 or CommunityDevelopment@rochestermn.gov

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Sunday, October 19

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

10:40 am Book Discussion Group

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Monday, October 20

12:00 pm Newsletter Items Due

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

Tuesday, October 21

9:30 am PW Bible Study

12:00 pm Bulletin Items Due

5:00 pm Neighborhood Restaurant Info Mtg

6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee (v)

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

Wednesday, October 22

8:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, October 23

5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Saturday, October 25

Great Room Use: Birthday Party

Sunday, October 26 Reformation Sunday

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios



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

Bonnie Kinion

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

Serving in Worship Today

Speaker	Bruce Felger
Liturgist	Margie Petersen
Special Music	CPC Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard & Bruce Felger

Church Staff

Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Pianist	Tianyao Xie
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch