

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**Prepare the way in us
this Advent, that we
might make space in
our hearts for the
arrival of your Son.**

Amen.

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Second Sunday in Advent: Peace
Sunday, December 7, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able
An offering plate is placed near the door to the church to receive your offerings. It is
available before worship, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

Light the first candle.

We light this candle for peace.

Light the second candle.

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10:

Reader 1:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader 2:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE GTG 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

vs. 2

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Isaiah 11

A tree stump left to rot puts forth new shoots.

Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

A wolf slinks toward sheep and joins their fold.

Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

A child plays while serpents slumber.

Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

A prophet cries out from the wild places:

Prepare the way! For heaven is near at hand.

OPENING HYMN GTG 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord and make God’s paths straight.” Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

Friends, hear the good news: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God’s love has already claimed us as God’s own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son.

May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish

and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen and Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

String Ensemble

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

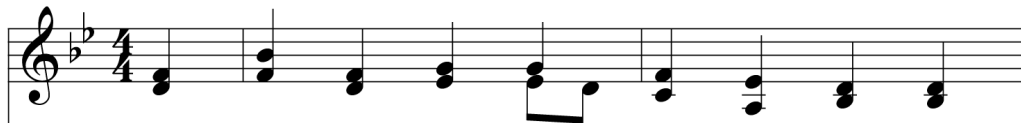
John Said Yes

Rev. Tim Gerarden

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 96

On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist’s Cry



1 On Jor - dan’s bank the Bap - tist’s cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

noun - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from The Confession of 1967

**God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life:
 social and cultural, economic and political,
 scientific and technological, individual and corporate.**

It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin.

**God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of
 Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation.**

**Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people
 and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.**

With an urgency born of this hope,

the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

**It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,
 nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.**

**In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement
 to the final triumph of God.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new
 creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

DOXOLOGY GTG 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

verse 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 of every good gift, We offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always,

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / JOYS AND CONCERNS

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ's realm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer...**

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem ... Bring peace, O God, to the world you have made: the peace that passes understanding and the promise of your new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is coming in glory to reign. **Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION WITH ALL GOD'S SAINTS

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
The earth is full of your knowledge and glory.
You made all creatures to live in peace and safety,
and sent a little child to lead us.

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

SANCTUS GTG 572

Holy, Holy, Holy

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: Baptized by John, Christ came to deliver us from sin, and to pour out the Holy Spirit upon your church. By our faith in Christ, we have the hope of eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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**

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 497 Bread of Life from Heaven *refrain*
**Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
 we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

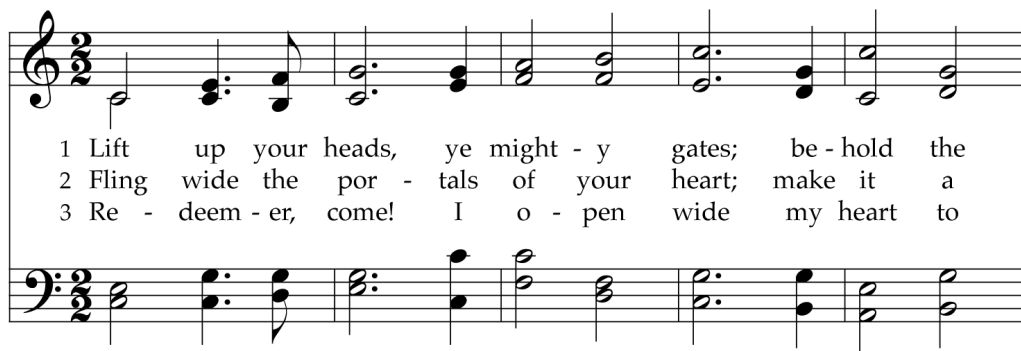
God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly

food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

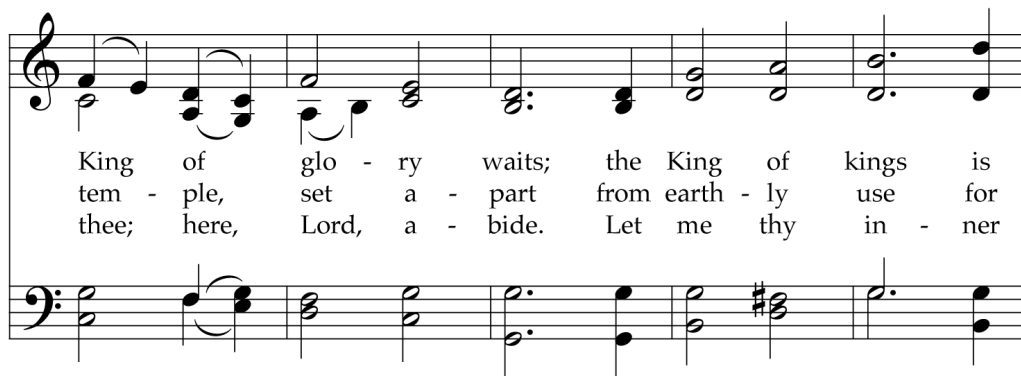
SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 93

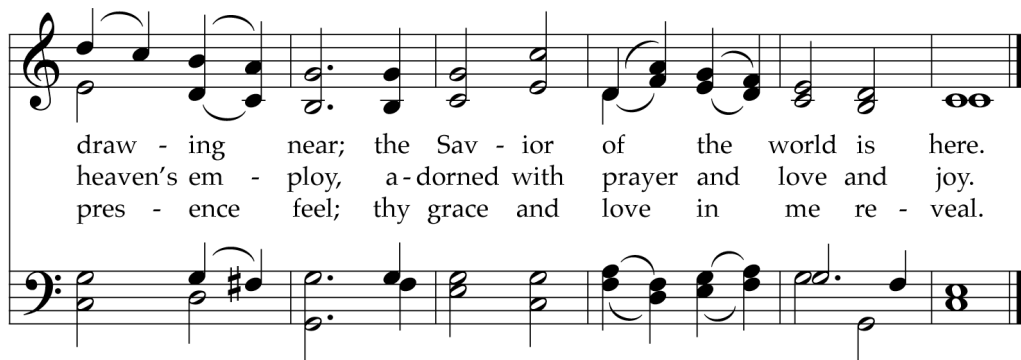
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;
May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;
And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone,
and that you are loved beyond measure.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

We welcome some of Blake Bonde's students to CPC today to bless us with music on their string instruments! Such a wonderful addition to our Advent service!



Today is Stewardship Sunday! Please put your pledge sheet (intention sheet) in the offering basket before worship, during the hymn of the day or after worship.

The Gage East Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. They have requested 6 volunteers to help serve the dinner and five people have already signed up. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mark Neville at 507-252-0298 or maneville1950@gmail.com.



Stay after worship for the pancake breakfast and the greening of the church!

In addition to helping with the party, we want to provide gift cards for each of the 30 families as we did last year. We hope to have \$25 gift cards from Walmart, Hy-Vee or Circle K stores. If you're interested in contributing, you can purchase one or more of these cards and deliver them to the church by Sunday, Dec. 7. If you cannot shop for the cards yourself, you can make a gift to CPC of \$25 for each card you wish to give and we will buy the cards for you. Cash and checks for the cards also need to be made by Dec. 7 to allow time to purchase the cards.

Talk to Mark Neville if you still intend to donate!



There will be a **Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 14th at 2:30 pm** at Plainview CPC for the women of both churches. They will be serving a lunch with cookies, social time, and music. If you missed the sign up, but still want to come, please let Mary Alice or Stephanie know ASAP.

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

- Sunday, December 7 Advent 2 & Stewardship Sunday - bring your pledges!**
- 9:30 am** Worship with Communion
Onsite and Online
- 10:30 am** Pancake Breakfast and Greening of the Church
- 2:30 pm** Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios
- Monday, December 8**
- 9:30 am** Mission Prayer Group
- Tuesday, December 9**
- 9:00 am** Bulletin Items Due
- 7:00 pm** Great Room Use: Mission Aid Net.
- Wednesday, December 10**
- 8:00 am** Prayer Group
- 4:00 pm** Gage East Christmas Party
- 6:30 pm** CPC Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm** Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
- Thursday, December 11**
- 5:30 pm** Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios
- Friday, December 12**
- 6:30 pm** Library, Great Room Use:
SE MN ASD Social Group
- Sunday, December 14 Advent 3**
- 9:30 am** Worship- Onsite and Online
- 1:45 pm** Meet to carpool for the PW
Christmas Tea in Plainview
- 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
Bill Marshall's Dad

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
Liturgists	Bruce Felger
Advent	Joanne and Lyal Powell
IT Support	Louis Bouchard & Bruce Felger

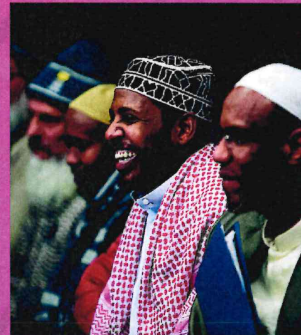
Church Staff

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

• ISAIAH & FAITH IN MINNESOTA PRESENT •

A LIGHT IN THE STORM

AGENDA LAUNCH & ANTI-AUTHORITARIANISM STRATEGY TRAINING



**SATURDAY
DEC. 13**

12PM - 6PM

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION
CENTER, 1301 2ND AVE S.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404



THOUSANDS OF ISAIAH AND FAITH IN MINNESOTA LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE WILL COME TOGETHER TO LAUNCH OUR AGENDA THROUGH 2027 AND PLAN A PATH IN THIS MOMENT TO PROTECT OUR STATE, NEIGHBORS, AND FAMILIES IN THE FACE OF RISING AUTHORITARIANISM. TOGETHER WE ARE GOING TO MAKE MINNESOTA A PLACE WHERE FAMILIES ACROSS RACE, PLACE, AND RELIGION CAN THRIVE.



SCAN TO REGISTER
OR VISIT: [BIT.LY/ISAIAH2025](https://bit.ly/isaiah2025)



FREE **HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Featuring tuba players
from across the state!

Saturday, December 20th
at 12:00pm CST
400 5th Ave SW

LEARN MORE

The tubas are returning! On Saturday, December 20th, we invite you to join us for Tuba Christmas, a free, one-hour concert that fills the season with warmth, cheer, and the unmistakable charm of low brass holiday music. There's truly nothing like the sound of dozens of tubas and euphoniums lifting beloved Christmas carols into the air. The deep, rich tones blend together in a way that feels both festive and magical — the kind of sound that wraps around you like your favorite winter scarf.

Presented by The Landing and hosted at Christ United Methodist Church, this event brings together talented players from across the state for a performance that honors a tradition dating back to 1974, when the very first TubaChristmas rang out at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. Today, it continues as a nationwide (and international!) celebration of music, community, and holiday joy — and Rochester is proud to be part of that legacy.

Best of all? Tuba Christmas is completely FREE and open to the public. No tickets, no fees — just an afternoon of music, community connection, and holiday spirit. So gather your friends, your family, and anyone who loves a little seasonal magic, and join us for this unforgettable event. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Saturday, December 20th, 12:00–1:00 PM
Christ United Methodist Church
400 5th Ave SW, Rochester, MN 55902

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2157780571396049>