

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**Grant us courage like  
Joseph, to care for  
those we love and  
those whose names  
we don't even know.  
Amen.**

**Sunday, December 28, 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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

**On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

### OPENING HYMN GTG 140

### Once In Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

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## CONFESSION AND PARDON

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, "Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ..." With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**God of Christmas,**

**we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby.**

**We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army.**

**We would not have thought to find your kingdom**

**to be one of service, obedience and humility.**

**We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted,  
 a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests.**

**Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind**

**and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling**

**as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace.**

**By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according**

**to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

The angel said to Joseph, “She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Indeed, he did and still does. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**Praise the Lord! Alleluia!**

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, the gospel writer John tells us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.” As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may we hear and see the glory of Jesus Christ and receive grace upon grace. **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING                      Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,”  
and he became their savior  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### RESPONSIVE READING                      Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!**

**Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!**

**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

**Praise the Lord!**

#### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Joseph’s Double Yes*

Rev. Tim Gerarden

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 147      The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

*Refrain*

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The Treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The Bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are: "Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from The Confession of 1967*

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.**

**Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people  
and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.**

**He expressed the love of God in word and deed  
and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women.**

**But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people.**

**His life and teaching judged their goodness,  
religious aspirations, and national hopes.**

**Many rejected him and demanded his death.**

**In giving himself freely for them,  
he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted.**

**God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.**

**The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: “Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

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

Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank you for your indescribable gift of your only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and offerings today. With your blessing, may they be multiplied and used to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for your many blessings and your claim on our lives to share them with others. In Jesus’s name we pray. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

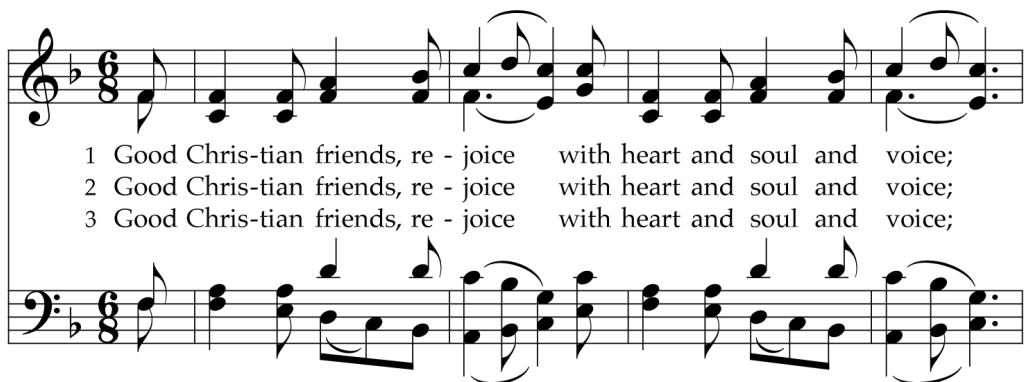
**Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring  
May love rise again in us today  
With food for every table, shelter for every family  
And reverence for every life.  
Forgive us our failings in love and free us from all falseness  
That the light of our souls may shine and the strength of our spirits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

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 132

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

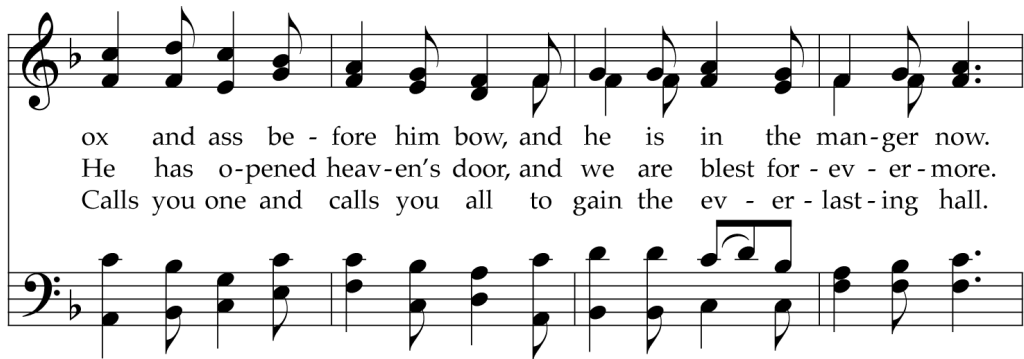




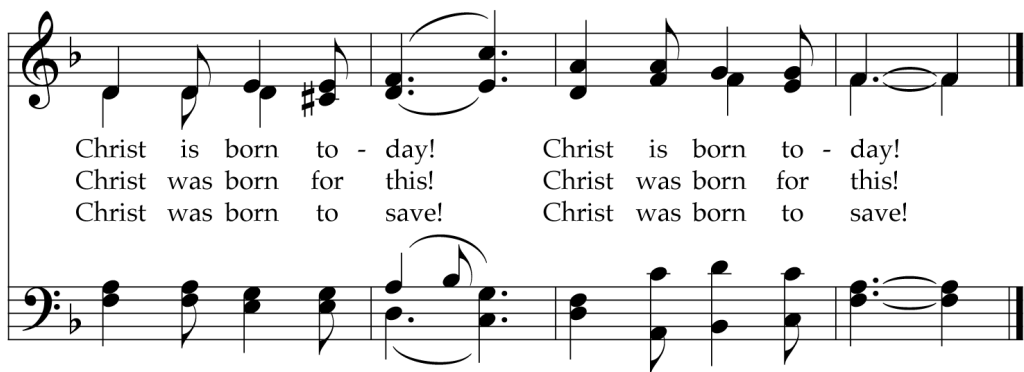
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Go out with the joy and promise of Christmas.

Know that we are not alone in this world.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us, goes with us.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

POSTLUDE



**The Annual Meeting** will take place on Sunday, January 25, following worship. It is a great time to look back at the year that's been and to look forward to exciting opportunities in the future! We will remember members that have passed on and we will thank leadership for a job well done. All members and friends are welcome and invited to attend!



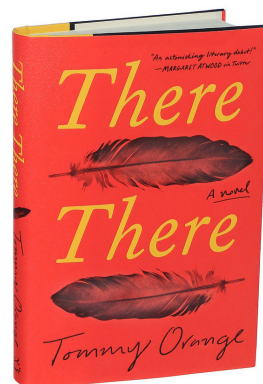
Items for the Annual Report are due on Sunday, January 11th, but they are welcome any time before that. If you have 2025 pictures that you would like to be considered for the collage on the report cover, please email them to the office.



## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



In January, the Book Discussion Group will read Tommy Orange's acclaimed debut novel, *There, There*, about urban Native American lives converging at a powwow in Oakland, exploring identity, history, and trauma through 12 interconnected characters, a story blending fiction and factual Indigenous history, earning praise for its unique perspective and poignant portrayal of modern Native American experiences.



The group will meet on Sunday, January 18th, following worship.

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**Sunday, December 28**

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

**2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios**

**Monday, December 29 - Office Closed**

**Tuesday, December 30 - Office Open**

**6:00 pm Choir Christmas Party at the Pillers**

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

**Wednesday, December 31 - Office Closed**

**Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day**  
**Office Closed**

**Sunday, January 4**

**9:30 am Worship with Communion-  
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

Bill Marshall's Dad

*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 Preacher

Rev. Tim Gerarden

Liturgist

Peggy McCarty

IT Support

Louis Bouchard  
& Bruce Felger

## Church Staff

Music Director

Jennifer Taylor

Pianist

Tianyao Xie

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch