

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, February 1, 2026

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

Beloved, we come into your sanctuary with eagerness.

based on Psalm 15

May we hear your call and speak your truth.

Beloved, we come to abide with you in love.

Gather us in honest and faithful community.

Beloved, prepare us to be people of hope and grace.

Kindle in us courage to live as brave and faithful disciples.

Let us worship our God together in this holy place.

Alleluia. Amen.

OPENING HYMN GTG 739

O for a Closer Walk with God

1. O for a clos - er walk with God, a
 2. Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet
 3. The dear - est i - dol I have known, what -
 4. So shall my walk be close with God, calm

calm and heaven - ly frame, a light to shine up -
 mes - sen - ger of rest! I hate the sins that
 e'er that i - dol be, help me to tear it
 and se - rene my frame; so pur - er light shall

on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
 made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.
 from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
 mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

CONFSSION AND PARDON

With what shall I come before the Lord? We come, knowing we've lived imperfectly, knowing we need forgiveness, and we ask what we could possibly offer for such a gift. But when we come in honesty and repentance, we find a God who is ready to love, ready to forgive, and ready to renew us as children of God. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent prayer.

Merciful God, we come before you in confession.

You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts.

You have given us freedom to live justly,

but we choose to oppress and judge others.

You have called us to live in peaceful community,

but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call.

Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way each and every day.

Lord, hear our prayer ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole.

Alleluia. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wonder, awaken us! As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, open us to be surprised! Enliven us with the power of the Word and presence of your Spirit. Transform us for our walk with you. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A new teaching, with authority! **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Weak and the Strong

Rev. Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 213 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, from the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no
 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
 sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from "The Confession of 1967"

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self.

Jesus Christ is God with us.

**He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human
and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation.**

**He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit
to continue and complete his mission.**

This work of God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –

is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world.

Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Recognizing God's gracious blessings poured upon us, we respond with gratitude, giving of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of the kingdom here and now. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

DOXOLOGY GTG 606

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, thank you for the many blessings of our lives. Bless these gifts we give today. May they be used to bring about justice and joy for those who need them most.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / JOYS AND CONCERNs

THE LORD'S PRAYER

paraphrase from *unfoldinglight.net*

**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 372

O For a World

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo-ri-ous reign of peace,
where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Friends, we cannot stay here.

There is work to be done out there.

Go, be the church in the world.

Love boldly. Speak bravely. Build the kindom here and now.

May the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit uplift and uphold you now and forever.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2026
Liturgy written by Rae Watson
and provided for free distribution.

Hope That Transforms Us

Saturday, February 28th
9:00am-12:00pm

Attend in-person or via Zoom

Hear a variety of people share their stories of hope.
Find joy in the midst of darkness through group
discussion and individual reflection.



Dr. Edward Creagan

Dr. Ed Creagan, Mayo Clinic oncologist and palliative-care pioneer, former president of the Mayo Staff, is a beloved speaker and author known for his humor, compassion, and practical wisdom on living well through life's hardest moments.



Fr. Nick Mezacappa

Fr. Nick Mezacappa, longtime Calvary Episcopal Church rector, is a retired priest devoted to community connection, justice, humor, and storytelling—still serving others in both ministry and everyday life.



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