

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



*With Whom I Am
Well Pleased*
Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of Our Lord

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

In the waters of baptism,

God marks us as kindred in his name.

In the waters of baptism,

the heavens open up and the Spirit pours out love.

In the waters of baptism,

God names us Beloved.

In the waters of baptism,

God claims us as her own.

OPENING HYMN GTG 610

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
now and ev - er given by saints be - low and



CONFESSION AND PARDON

On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we remember our own baptisms, where we were claimed as children of the covenant and beloved of God. Yet we live as those who are alienated from God. We have turned away from God, one another and the earth. Let us confess our sins, trusting in God's mercy.

Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another.

We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — and of Jesus' solidarity in his own baptism by John with all who have been immersed in baptismal waters, repenting of their sin. In his name, God has forgiven us of our own sins and set us on new paths. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own.

Thanks be to God.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the words we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us this day. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl
**and strips the forest bare,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

**May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the

third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

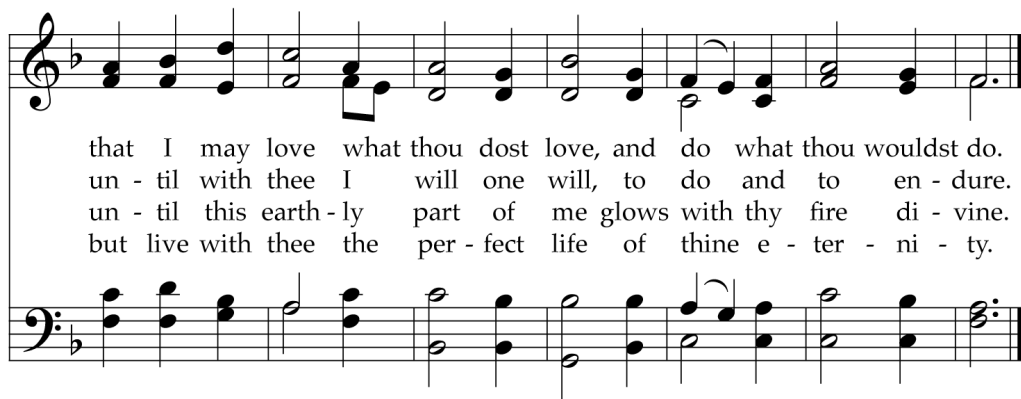
SERMON

Rev. Christopher Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 286 Breathe on Me Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

On the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we celebrate the great gift of Baptism and the life of promise therein. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return.

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

O God, in our baptisms we have been named and claimed as your covenant people, connected deeply with you, with one another, and with the earth. May these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / JOYS AND CONCERNS

Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for the story of Jesus's baptism by John in the wilderness, for it reminds us of our own baptisms. Just as you claimed Jesus as your beloved, so also have we been claimed as your own children....

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

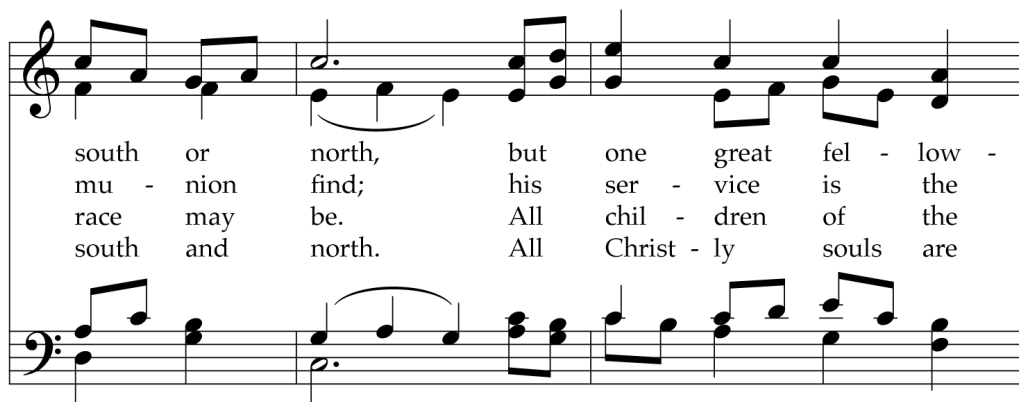
*CLOSING HYMN GTG 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

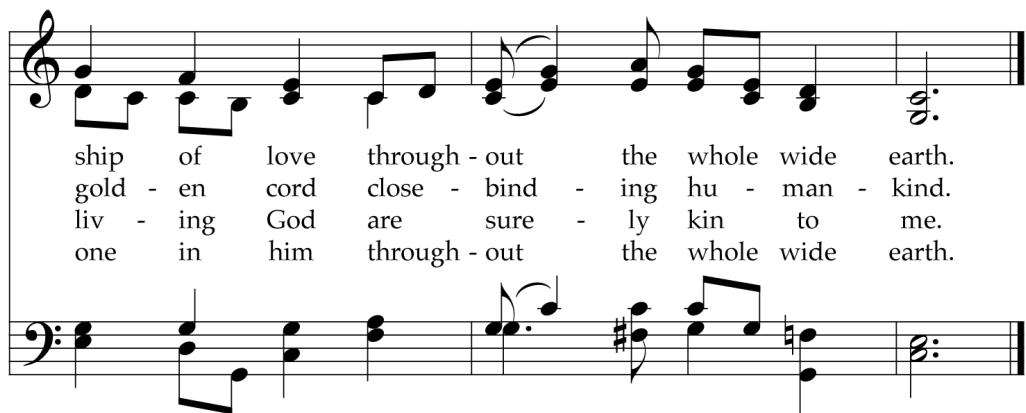
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1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet



south or north, but one great fel - low -
mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
race may be. All chil - dren of the
south and north. All Christ - ly souls are



*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Hear the voice of God that claimed you in baptism: you are precious and beloved in God's sight. God has claimed our lives in baptism that we might die to sin and be raised to new life.

God's Spirit empowers us now to follow Jesus into our world, so as you go, lift up the broken hearted and stand with the oppressed. Love God with your whole lives and love neighbors as yourselves. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Today, we welcome Pastor Chris Miller back to CPC! Rev. Chris Miller was born in Davenport, Iowa, and grew up in parsonages as a preacher's kid (PK). He graduated from Carthage College. He attended the ELCA Lutheran seminary in Chicago. Rev. Miller had served various parishes in Wisconsin, including Kenosha, Rice Lake / Brill, Mineral Point, and Loganville; also served parishes in Iowa City, IA, & Blue Springs, MO. Rev. Miller retired after 35 years in active parish ministry, and 5 years of Interim pastoral work in the SE MN Synod. He and his wife, Donna, moved to Rochester in July 2015. Since then he has done Interim work in 3 parishes, and supply preached in approximately 35 different churches in SE MN. He has supply preached at CPC several times, for which we thank him!

THIS IS
MY
beloved

Matthew 3:17

son, in whom

I am well

PLEASED

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!

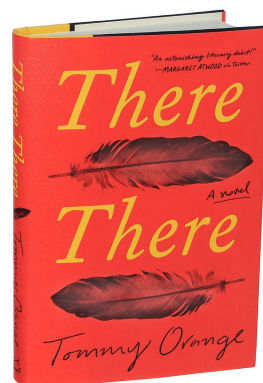


Items for the Annual Report are due TODAY. If you have 2025 pictures that you would like to be considered for the collage on the report cover, please email them to the office.

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.



Coming up:

The office will be closed
Monday, January 19,
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
and Tuesday, January 20.



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Liturgy written by Roger Gench
and provided for free distribution.

Additional resource used:
Call to Worship

Community Presbyterian Church

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*Welcome to
CPC!*

Sunday, January 11

Annual Report Items Due

9:30 am Worship -Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

7:00 pm Great Room Use: Piano Recital

Monday, January 12

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, January 13

9:00 am Bulletin Items Due

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

Wednesday, January 14

8:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15

5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, January 18

9:30 am Worship -Onsite and Online

10:40 am Book Discussion Group

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

The Marshall Family

*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. Christopher Miller

Liturgist

Dave Copeland

IT Support

Louis Bouchard

& Bruce Felger

Church Staff

Music Director

Jennifer Taylor

Pianist

Tianyao Xie

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch