

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**Sunday, February 8, 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

*based on Psalm 112*

People of God, praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
those who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.**

We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed.

We are God's very own, called together here this day.

**Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship.**

**Praise the Lord!**

### OPENING HYMN GTG 314

### Longing For Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

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## CONFESSION AND PARDON

The more we know God's holiness, the more we can sense our distance from our creator. The more we seek justice and faithful living, the more we understand our complicity in systems that oppress. With humble hearts, let us confess our brokenness, our selfishness and our sin.

**Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.**

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

**Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help,  
and he will say, 'Here I am.'"**

We are blessed to know that very light which breaks forth.

We know God's love and grace through Jesus Christ.

**Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God, the words we read are ancient and true. On this day, may we hear them anew. Grant us hearts to discern your Spirit within them, and grant us courage to follow them in our lives this day. **Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING**

Isaiah 58: 1-9a

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

**Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.**

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

**they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.**

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

**Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.**

You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

**Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.**

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

**Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?**

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

**to loose the bonds of injustice,**

**to undo the straps of the yoke,**

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

**Is it not to share your bread with the hungry**

**and bring the homeless poor into your house;**

when you see the naked, to cover them

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

**Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,**

**and your healing shall spring up quickly;**

your vindicator shall go before you;

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;**

**you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

SERMON

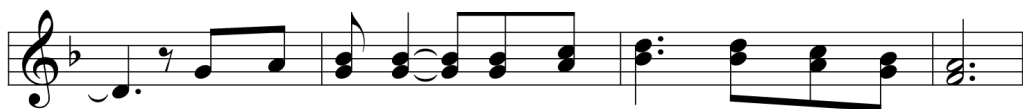
Rev. Jan Wiersma

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 762      When the Poor Ones



1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang-ers,  
2 When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,  
3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,  
4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,



when the thirst-y wa - ter give un - to us all,  
when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,  
when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,  
when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,



when the crip - pled in their weak-ness strength-en oth - ers,  
when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,  
when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,  
when each strang-er that we meet is called a neigh-bor,



then we know that God still goes that road with us,



then we know that God still goes that road with us.

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### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from "The Confession of 1967"*

**We believe:**

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church's mission.**

**His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.**

**His service to men and women commits the church  
to work for every form of human well-being.**

**His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering  
so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.**

**His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity  
that marks human relations, and the awful consequences  
of the church's own complicity in injustice.**

**In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,  
the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society  
and of God's victory over all wrong.**

**The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

**Amen.**

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

All that we know, and all that we have, comes from God. In gratitude for all that God has given us, let us give back to God what was God's to begin with in the form of our tithes and offerings.

#### DOXOLOGY GTG 647

Give Thanks

**Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.**

**And now, let the weak say "We are strong."  
let the poor say "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept these, our gifts, almighty God, as a statement of our faith. May our offering bring goodness and light wherever it is needed. May our communities of faith be bearers of your light. And may we be sources of that same light to the world in all we say and do. **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 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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### \*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Go, dear friends, to love and serve the Lord. Go shine light into darkness. Go be salt of the earth. Go enjoy the wonders of our world, which God has made. Go stand beside those on the margins. Go form faith. Go have your faith formed. And go to share God's love, knowing that you are uniquely beloved.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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Liturgy written by Owen J. Gray  
and provided for free distribution.



*You are the salt of the earth.  
But if the salt loses its  
saltiness, how can it be  
made salty again?*

*It is no longer good for anything,  
except to be thrown out  
and trampled underfoot.*

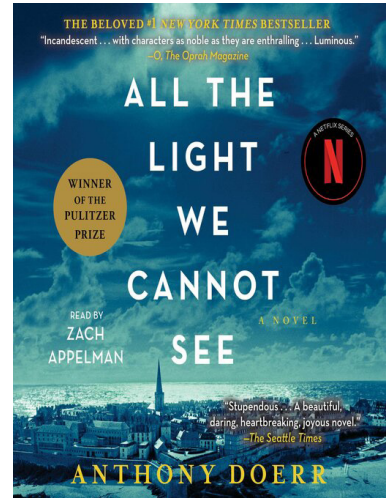
— MATTHEW 5:13

# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The book discussion group will read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr for the February meeting. The Book Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, February 15, following worship.

**All are welcome to join in the discussion!**



This Lent, we will be using this resource from Church Anew: ***Unbound: Longing for Wholeness***. From the Church Anew's website: "What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness."

Instead of a traditional devotional or the daily texts, we will delve into contemplative practices. The resource will be available on Ash Wednesday!

**Ash Wednesday is February 18. We will begin our Lenten journey together with a Wednesday evening service at 7 pm.**

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*Welcome to  
CPC!*

**Sunday, February 8**

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

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

9:00 am Bulletin Items Due

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

Wednesday, February 11

8:00 am Prayer Group

**6:30 pm CPC Choir Resumes**

Friday, February 13

6:30 pm Library, Great Room Use:  
SE MN ASD Social Group

**Sunday, February 15**

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

**10:40 am Book Discussion Group**



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

Jennifer Taylor

*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. Jan Wiersma

Liturgist

Margaret Petersen

IT Support

Louis Bouchard  
& Bruce Felger

## **Church Staff**

Music Director

Jennifer Taylor

Pianist

Tianyao Xie

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch