

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



Sunday, March 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

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

We have come to give thanks and to sing songs of praise!

We are the people of God's pasture;
we trust that God will bring us through the wilderness.

We seek God's living water and praise God's holy name!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of spirit and truth,

We thirst to know and to be known, no longer fragmented but whole. When we are bound by believing we cannot share anything in common, stay with us and reveal our shared longings, that we might rejoice together. For you are the one we seek, the one we ask others to come and see. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN GTG 367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As we wander through the wilderness of Lent, we come closer and closer to confronting human sin, both our own sin and our collective sin. It is with honesty about how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession allows us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who hears us is the God who already loves us. Therefore, we need not fear confession, but draw near to the love is God, in honesty and candor, first together, and then in silence...

God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored,

God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted,

there are times when our way grows confused.

We struggle to know what to do.

Or worse, we know what needs to be done

and find it easier to stay on the wrong path.

Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way.

Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive

than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace.

And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake...Amen.

Silence for personal reflection...

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.
Believe the promise of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, renewed and whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

**Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.**

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.”

Therefore in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest.”

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thy Will Be Done
by Joycel Elaine Eilers

CPC Choir
Soloist: Mark Neville

*Sometimes the load is heavy, and sometimes the road is long.
And sometimes, Lord, this heart of mine is not so very strong.
But Thy will be done, Lord, Thy will be done.*

*Father, I do not ask you to take this cup from me.
I only ask your guidance o'er paths I cannot see.
And Thy will be done, Lord. Thy will be done.*

(The Lord's prayer....)

*Now, Lord, I feel you near me, I feel your guiding pow'r.
And know you're standing by me through every passing hour.
And Thy will be done, Lord. Thy will be done.*

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well

is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked

him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

We proclaim Christ crucified— the wisdom and power of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Julie Beck

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Excerpted from the Confession of 1967

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing
power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

From the dust of the earth, God made our mortal bodies, and with God's breath, life was instilled in us. There is nothing that we have that is not a gift from God. Remembering all of God's manifold blessings, let us worship God with our tithes and our offerings.

DOXOLOGY GTG 606 Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, from abundance upon abundance, you have said that we may freely take, and freely share. As we return to you what is already your own, we ask that you would bless these gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see your reign unfolding before us, through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

next page

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life,
open your senses to the mystery of God's grace,
enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love,
and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life.
May the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Week 3 from *Contemplative Practices*

SCRIPTURE: John 4:5-42 / Genesis 39:1-20

In these readings, we hear a lot about longing. The Samaritan woman longs to be truly seen and to be in relationship. As Jesus names the truth about her, others are brought to believe in him. In Genesis, we hear about a more selfish kind of longing: Potifar's wife yearns for Joseph and has unrequited love for him. Because of her position of power, Joseph pays the price for her desires.

Thomas Merton continues his prayer, praying that the desire to please God would remain central to all we do:

“And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.”

QUESTION:

So often we think of our body as a liability. But, thanks to the incarnate Christ, we receive freedom within our bodies, even in the midst of the ways we feel bound by them. In what ways do you experience Divine blessing upon your body?

PRACTICE: VISEO DIVINA (DIVINE SEEING/LOOKING)

Viséo Divina, or “Divine seeing/looking,” is a practice of using images to become more attuned to the Divine. Begin with finding stillness: take a few deep breaths, allow yourself to be present to the moment, and ask God to show you what this image may have to offer in this time. Place the image in front of you and simply sit with it for a few minutes, taking time to enjoy the image. Next, recall what part of the image caught your eye when you first looked at it. Take a minute or two to gaze only at this part of the image. After you have done this, return to looking at the entirety of the image. What feelings does it evoke for you? What questions emerge? Are there areas of your own life that the image speaks into?

As you conclude, you may want to close with a word of prayer to God, giving thanks for the many ways the Divine speaks to us.



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Welcome to
CPC!

Sunday, March 8

9:30 am Worship -Onsite and Online

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 am Bulletin Items Due

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

Wednesday, March 11

8:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, March 13

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

Sunday, March 15

9:30 am Worship -Onsite and Online

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



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

Kristy Giere

*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. Julie Beck

Liturgist

Special Music

CPC Choir

IT Support

Louis Bouchard
& Bruce Felger

Church Staff

Music Director

Jennifer Taylor

Pianist

Tianyao Xie

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch