

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded



PEACE

JOHN 20:19-31

**Sunday, April 12, 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

Great is the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

**The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.**

**But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

### OPENING HYMN GTG 245

### Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are as follows:

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"  
2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,  
4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,  
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?  
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Printed with Permission CCLI #2748883

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting in God’s gracious promise of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

**Eternal God,**

**your Word teaches us that whether we live or whether we die, we are yours.**

**Forgive us for forgetting your gracious promise of life.**

**We live in fear, thinking death has the final say.**

**We follow our own ways rather than your life-giving path in Jesus Christ.**

**Help us put our trust in you, our God who has the power of life over death.**

**We believe, Lord; help our unbelief.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead never to die again, we pray. Amen.**

The scriptures teach: “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

**We confess that Jesus is Lord and we believe and celebrate the good news that God raised him from the dead.**

Trust in this promise: In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, we know that all Scripture is inspired by you and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to you may be proficient, equipped for every good work. As we hear the good news this Easter season, may we come to believe more and more that Jesus is the Messiah, your Son and that through believing we may have life in his name. **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*The Lord's My Shepherd*  
by Bob Chilcott

CPC Choir

## GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Faith*

Rev. Jan Wiersma

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 817      We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Philippians 2:5-11*

**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,**

taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. With glad and generous hearts, let us present 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

Gracious and loving God, we bring our tithes and offerings to you in celebration and thanksgiving for the good news of Easter. Give us your wisdom and grace to use what you have given us for ministries of love and compassion that will share the love of Jesus Christ. Accept what we give in response to what you have so freely given to us, your indescribable gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **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 244

### This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'This Joyful Eastertide'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal line of each system. The first system covers the first three lines of the hymn. The second system covers the next three lines. The third system covers the final three lines. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Refrain

sprung to life this mor - row.  
wake the dead in num - ber. Had Christ, who once was  
pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in

vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en.

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed!**

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

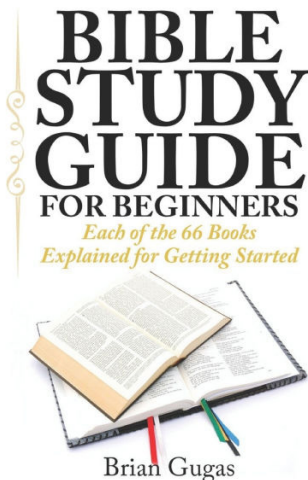
Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable,  
always excelling in the work of the Lord,  
because you know that in the Lord  
your labor is not in vain.

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

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Liturgy written by Philip K. Gladden  
and provided for free distribution.



Peggy McCarty will offer a Bible study (Cliff notes version) on all but one Friday in May. The first will be at 10:30 am until 11:30 or so on May 1, the next on May 8. Peggy will be away on May 15th, so the next will be May 22 and the last on May 29th. This is still open to modification if that day does not work for most. Another option would be Wednesdays in May. The book will be *Bible Study Guide for Beginners* by Brian Gugas. Hope to see everyone there!

# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

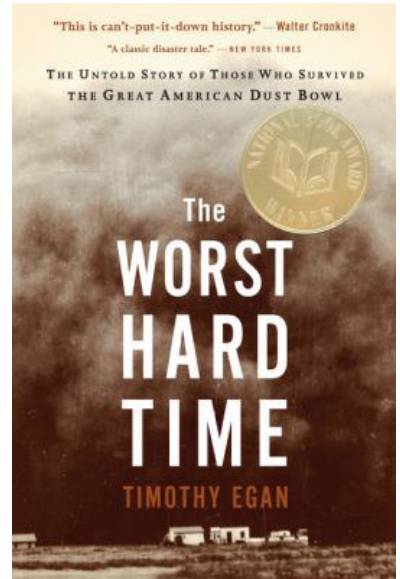


The Book Discussion group will meet on Sunday, April 19, following worship. The book for this month is *The Worst Hard Time: the Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan.

From the Rochester Public Library Website: “Egan Presents an oral history of the dust storms that devastated the Great Plains during the Depression, following several families and their communities in their struggle to persevere despite the devastation.”

The library bag of books is available in the CPC library for readers to pick up their copy of the book.

Join in on reading the book and discussing it this month!



FORTÉ PRESENTS

# RESONANCE

A HANDBELL CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 – 4:00 PM

**First Presbyterian Church**

512 Third Street SW

Rochester, MN

family-friendly and fun for all!

**FREE ADMISSION**

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**Sunday, April 12**

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

Monday, April 13

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 am Bulletin Items Due

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

Wednesday, April 15

8:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, April 19**

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

**10:40 am Book Discussion Group**



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler and family

Amy Ward and family

Sherrie Wilson

Vera Atkinson

Jennifer Taylor

Kristy Giere

Copeland's family members

Beth and Sasha

Sue Chipman

*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

Bruce Felger

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