

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester, MN • www.cpcrochester.org • 507-280-9291



Welcome to worship this morning!

*Bulletin Cue: **Bold** indicates congregational response.*

May 24, 2020

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Help in using Google Meet for worship

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Clap your hands, all you peoples! For the Most High reigns over all creation.

Shout to God with songs of joy!

We worship the Christ, exalted above every ruler and authority.

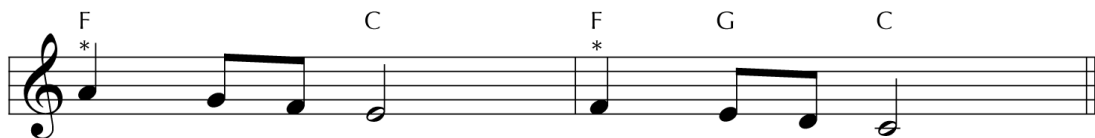
Sing praises to God, sing praises!

We bless the Spirit—the Wings of God, lifting us into heavenly places

Lift thankful hearts to the Beloved.



1 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Al - le - lu - ia,
 2 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Je - sus is Lord,
 3 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Wor - thy the Lamb,
 4 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Glo - ry to God,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."
 Je - sus is Lord, Je - sus is Lord."
 wor - thy the Lamb, wor - thy the Lamb."
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God."

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CALL TO CONFESSION

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.
 Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION

You call us to be your witnesses and clothe us with power.
 Yet we hold back, waiting for someone else to take action.
 We cling to the comfortable and the familiar,
 even if they no longer serve your purposes.
 We fear the future, for we cannot imagine a post-virus world,
 Nor envision a new season of ministry.
 Refocus us, O Lord, as we step into your future.
 Baptize us again with your Spirit
 and enlighten our hearts to discern your plan.

**Help us to be the body of Christ
 at work in where you have put us, in your world.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God Most High, reigning in glory, send down your Spirit of wisdom to shine in your heavenly Word, so that we may worship you with joy continually blessing your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 47

(adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying)

God, the Creator, reigns over all the earth,
Rejoicing in the beauty of diversity in land, sea, and air.

**May all nations choose the path of peace;
May all your children seek the path of healing.**

God, the Beloved, calls us to be co-creators,
Awakening us to our birthright and heritage, to share God's gifts of love.

**May all nations choose the path of peace;
May all your children seek the path of healing.**

God, our Advocate, Counselor, Comforter, and Helper,
Shield and protect all who seek your truth.

**May all nations choose the path of peace;
May all your children seek the path of healing.**

Sing praises to God, who sustains all the earth.
God, the Holy One, is worthy of praise and worship.

**May all nations choose the path of peace;
May all your children seek the path of healing.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

SERMON

Witness

Rev. Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 623 I've Got Peace Like a River

623 I've Got Peace like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an

riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my

soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain, in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

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.

OFFERING GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

(In lieu of a time of offering, people are invited to unmute one by one and share something that has inspired gratitude or given them hope in this past week; when all who desire to do so have spoken, we will collectively pray in response.)

PRAYER

God of life, of all life and of each life, we lay our own lives before you; we give our lives to you. In this time of global crisis, we give thanks for all your continued care, not for us alone, but for your whole suffering and precious world. We are yours, today and eternally.

Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 462

I Love to Tell the Story

verses 1 and 2

CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,

whom death could not contain,

Who lives to disturb and heal us,

Bless you with the power to live the gospel

Wherever you may be on this day of Christ's Ascension!

Thanks be to God!

Now whether going forth or staying home,


do everything in Jesus' name,

remembering his new commandment

to love one another, just as he has loved us. **Amen.**

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I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.

Refrain


I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, May 24

9:30 am Online Worship Service

4:00 pm Online Pet Parade

THIS WEEK AT CPC

* Daily Conference Call at 12:00 pm
(see contact information below)

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, May 27

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:00 pm Online Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 31

9:30 am Online Worship Service



Judy Leal

Jane, Ed, Elissa and Burgstaler family

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

*To be added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at
507-280-9291 or
email office@cpcrochester.org.
For emergency pastoral care,
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.*

Online Worship through May 31

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

* **Daily Conference Call - 12:00 noon**

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

Choir Director

Meg Cain

Handbell Director

Judy Kereakos

Pianist

Glenna Muir

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher

Rev. Jan Wiersma

Liturgist

Ivy Pillers

IT Support

Louis Bouchard