

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded

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

Love one  
♥ ANOTHER ♥  
as I have  
LOVED  
you  
-JOHN 15:12

May 9, 2021

*Welcome to worship this morning!*

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship as people of Easter,  
people who know Life is stronger than death.  
We gather to worship as children of God,  
children loved and claimed by the risen Lord.  
We gather to worship as the body of Christ,  
the church called out for service in the world. Easter people,  
**Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN GTG 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*vs. 1 and 2*

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit;  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 5:1-7

*The connection between God's love for us and our love for others is drawn even more tightly. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.*

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 98

*(adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying)*

Sing to the Beloved a new song, for Love has done marvelous things!  
By the strength of your presence, we too, are called to do great things.

**We are set free through Love's forgiveness and truth.**

Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth;  
break forth in grateful chorus and sing praises.

**We lift up our hearts in gratitude and joy.**

Let the sea laugh, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it.  
Let the waters clap their hands; let the hills ring out with joy;  
For Love reigns over the world with truth and justice;

**The Beloved brings harmony and balance to all of Creation.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*The Blessing*

by Maranatha

performed by Compassion Church from multiple locations

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

*Jesus continues his farewell message to his disciples the night before his death; he addresses them as friends. What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus?*

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends,

because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Don't you ever get tired of talking about love?*

Pastor Jan

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 7

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

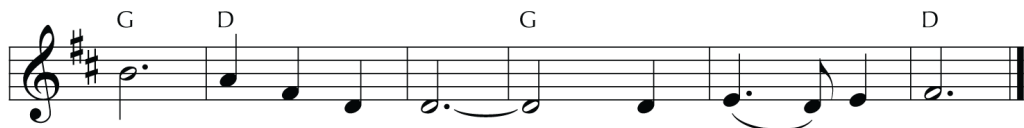
*all verses*



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - ery  
me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flower, un - til I know.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Creed of Hope (*adapted*)

**I believe in God.**

**I believe in the God who accompanies me along  
every step of my path on this earth,  
walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes,  
walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me,  
walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.**

**I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ,  
the God who lived in my skin and walked in my ways,  
who ate and starved, was loved and hated;  
the God who went to parties and funerals,  
the God who laughed and cried.**

**I believe in the God who looks at the world today  
and sees the hatred that segregates, divides,  
sets people aside, hurts and kills;  
who sees the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth,  
who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish,  
the toxic substances destroying the earth and piercing the sky  
who sees the future mortgaged and humanity's debt growing.**

**I believe in God who sees all this ...and keeps on crying.**

**But I also believe in God  
who sees a mother giving birth - a life born from pain,  
who sees two children playing - a seed growing,  
who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning,  
who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.**

**I believe in God who sees all this ...and laughs,  
because, in spite of it all, there is hope.**

— by Gerardo Oberman, Argentina; World Council of Churches, <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources>

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAVERS 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.**


## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing


vs. 1 and 2




1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Bear the light of God the Creator as you travel through life's mystery;  
Hear the voice of the risen Christ calling you to the places you need to be;  
Share the presence of the Holy Spirit with everyone you meet;  
Carry the warm fellowship of faith to all in need of peace and comfort.

May the truth of Easter  
The joy of Easter  
And the blessings of Easter  
Be with you this day and all days.

**Amen**



*Blue Sky Conversations continue after worship today (just stay online). Summaries of past Blue Sky Conversations and information provided can be found at <http://www.cpcrochester.org/blue-sky-conversations/>.*



**Elder Network** is helping “Individuals impacted by the limiting effects of aging have optimal quality of life.” Elder Network is dedicated towards expanding services and resources for elders in our community. They focus on helping seniors and caregivers to maintain their physical and mental health, as well as independence and quality of life. If you are an elder or caregiver in need of assistance or someone who would like to volunteer with us or seek a career with Elder Network please call 507-285-5272 or visit [www.elder-network.org](http://www.elder-network.org)

BOOK DISCUSSION  
**GROUP**



*This Tender Land*  
by William Kent Krueger  
Sunday, May 23 at 10:30  
(just stay online after worship!)  
All are welcome!

*This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger is the selection for our May 23 book discussion. The Lincoln School, on the Gilead River, is home to hundreds of Native American children separated from their parents to be educated at the school. Odie O'Banion and his brother, Albert are also students there, along with their friend, Mose, and Emmy. Odie is often in trouble with the superintendent of the school and the four children are forced to flee, beginning a journey down the river to the Mississippi to find a place of their own. Join us for an interesting discussion of this fantastic book!

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## TODAY AT CPC

### Sunday, May 9

9:30 am Online Worship Service  
10:30 am Blue Sky Conversation

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

### Tuesday, May 11

12:00 pm Conference Call \*  
12:00 pm Bulletin Items due  
6:30 pm Building and Grounds Committee

### Wednesday, May 12

6:30 am Prayer Group  
6:30 pm Jubellation Handbells Rehearsal

### Saturday, May 15

Deadline for Feedback to Personnel  
Committee

### Sunday, May 16

9:30 am Parking Lot In-Person Worship  
and Online Worship Service



Judy Leal  
Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and  
the Burgstaler grandchildren  
Connie Holst  
MariLynn Johnson  
Glenna Muir and her mother

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

### Online Worship /Bible Study

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>  
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

### \* Tuesday's Conference Call

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>  
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

### Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Carol Jones
IT Support	Louis Bouchard