



**I WAS BLIND
BUT NOW I SEE!**

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John 9:25

July 7, 2024

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

We rise from our work and leisure to bring healing and hope to others.

In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

The Light of life is shines on us in every moment of every day.

Let us worship our God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We gather to meet with God Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be aware of your presence in our day, for you, Lord, are here now; your Spirit dwells within us to bring you our worship and offer you our praise to be conscious that you walk beside us and we do not make the journey alone Father, Son and Holy Spirit, draw near to us As we draw near to you. **Amen**

~ written by Dot Woods, in "Sunday Mid-day Prayer," posted on Lighting Beacons

OPENING HYMN GTG 336

We Gather Together

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

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CONFESSION AND PARDON

God longs for us to sit by the still waters of love, but we are too busy stirring up trouble with our actions, with our words, with our inability to be God's children. Let us bring our prayers to the One who will restore us with goodness and mercy, as we pray together, saying,

Merciful God, we confess that our seeing is impaired, and that we want to be blind to our own sin. We do love darkness more than light, for the light of your Spirit exposes the inmost heart and motives. When in expression of your love, a light from heaven flashes around us, we become afraid; when you move in some inexplicable way in our personal lives, in our church, in our worship, we struggle to get our minds around the event that we may feel in control. We confess it may well be that we are afraid, afraid of the blinding light of your power, afraid of what you might ask of us, what you might do through us! Forgive us, we pray, and take the blindness from our eyes. Amen.

Beloved friends, God's love is more profound than any of our resistance. God's forgiveness goes deeper than our despair. God is with us in all times and places. Receive God's love. Through Christ, receive God's forgiveness and be healed. Thanks be to God!

Alleluia and Amen!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, As we hear your word, open our eyes to your Presence ; open our minds to your grace; open our lips to your praises; open our hearts to your love; open our hearts to your healing; and be found among us. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Samuel 6: 4-7

Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

SPECIAL MUSIC

Glenna Muir

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-34

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my

eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Open Our Eyes”

Pastor Denise

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

One of the ways that we witness to the resurrection and all that it means and does in our lives is to be generous. We give to show that Jesus is alive and new life has settled within us. In the spirit of Jesus, you are invited to make a generous offering.

An offering plate is placed near the back of the room to receive your offerings and is available before, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 451 Open My Eyes, That I May See



1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear.
3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where.



Place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren



set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God our Creator and Redeemer, you made us in love to share that love with neighbour and stranger as Jesus commanded. Take our gifts and make them tokens of your love we can share throughout our community and in the world that you love, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAVERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You prepared a feast of wonder
for us, Imagination beyond power,
when creation burst forth...

With all who once lived in the shadows,
but now walk in the light of grace,
we sing glad thanksgivings to you:

SANCTUS GTG 595

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!

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Here is the Table prepared for us,
God of still waters and deep love, your Spirit transforming the simple gifts
of the bread and the cup into that goodness and mercy which is always with us.

We take the bread, broken for our healing, and share it with one another
so we may go forth and do all that makes your heart race with joy:
bringing hope to those who suffer,
listening to the voices of the hopeless.

We take the cup which overflows with grace,
and take it to pour out on
 all who have lost their way,
 all who long for community.

And when our journeys have ended
around the Table prepared for us in glory,
we will join our hearts and voices
with those from every age and time
and forever sing your praises,
God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Mother and Father in heaven, holy be your name.
Impose your reign that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today this one day's bread.
Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who do wrong against us.
Save us from our temptations and keep us from doing evil,
For the Realm, the power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

For communion, gluten free bread and grape juice are served for all who partake. Please take and eat the bread as it is served, and then as a sign of unity, hold the cup until all are served so that we might partake together.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION GTG 525 Let Us Break Bread Together

**Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.**

*Refrain: When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)*

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow in us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.


SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here my ten - der com - fort



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Go now to where you find friends and neighbors,
as well as family and strangers.

Go now and share that never-ending love of the Healer of all.

Go now, with that faith which dares to touch the outcast,
with hearts that break for the pain of others.

And may God respond to every cry with mercy;
May Christ Jesus take us all by the hand and lift us to life;
and may the Holy Spirit build us up in faith, in speech,
.....in knowledge, in passion and in love.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
.....**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE



Come Worship in the sun and enjoy our Garden of Life!
Sunophobe? Bring your umbrella!

**OUTDOOR
WORSHIP**

Volunteers to help set up required!

Outdoor Service next Sunday, July 14, weather permitting!

Bring your lawn chair and sunglasses!

HELP is needed to set up and put things away....

see Bruce or Ivy for questions regarding how you can help!

This morning we welcome Rev. Denise Dunbar -Perkins to CPC. The Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins retired in 2017 from Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis where she served as a Board Certified, Staff Chaplain in both the Oncology and Cardiovascular units, along with being an adjunct teacher in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program. A graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, she is one of the original founding members of Kwanzaa Community Church PC (USA) (now Liberty Presbyterian) in North Minneapolis, the only African American Presbyterian Church in Minnesota. In the last 29 years, within the church, she has served locally, nationally and internationally as a speaker, teacher, preacher, workshop leader, curriculum writer and worship leader. She has also served as Bridge Pastor or covered the pastor's sabbatical for several local churches. Additionally, she has been Parish Associate for both Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis. Denise is a past Moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and has previously served as a member or Chair of several presbytery and synod committees and is currently serving as the Liaison for Immigrant Fellowship Communities. Additionally, she was a GA Commissioner for the 221st gathering in Detroit and in the past, an adjunct professor at United Seminary.



Denise grew up on the Southside of Chicago, the youngest of five siblings and now resides in Red Wing, Minnesota with her spouse, the Rev. Dr. Herbert Perkins, currently the pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. They are also the proud parents to Yuki, their 10 year old Shih Tzu, who serves as the honorary church dog!



Our dear friend and member, Ron Murray, passed away on Sunday, May 26 in the hospital. His steadfast presence and big heart will be deeply missed.

Ron's Celebration of Life will be Friday, July 26 at 4 pm at the Samaritan Bethany Chapel. His obituary can be found here:

<https://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries/ronald-murray>

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, July 7

- 9:00 am Deacons: Quarterly Meeting
9:30 am Worship with Communion
- Onsite and Online
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday-Tuesday Office Closed

Tuesday, July 9

- 12:00 pm Items for the Bulletin are Due
 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee
 7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, July 10

- 9:00 am Prayer Group

Thursday, July 11

- 5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, July 14

- 9:30 am Worship - Outdoor and Online**
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal
 Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
 especially daughters Jenny & Elissa
 Connie Holst
 Vera Atkinson, Karen and Pastor
 Carla and their family
 The family of Ron Murray
 Dick Massaro
 Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline
 Roland Ronningen and his parents
 Mary Alice Richardson
 Sue Chipman

*To be added to the prayer list, please
 contact the pastor: pastor@cpcrochester.org.
 org or the office: 507-280-9291 or via
 email: office@cpcrochester.org. Emergency
 Pastoral Support: Pastor Carla Nelson:
 507-254-1254*

Church Staff

Bridge Pastor	Rev. Carla Nelson
Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher	Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins
Liturgist	Ivy Pillers
Special Music	Glenna Muir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard