

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our mission is to be an open-hearted, open-minded Christian

community sharing a ministry of faith, hope, and love.

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 4, 2011 9:30 A.M.



WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

Greeting & Announcements (L = Leader / P = People / A = All)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

Prelude

(As the waters of the Spirit pour forth, we prepare our hearts for Christ)

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Mary Alice Richardson, Jane Burgstaler

Reader: Glory to God, who makes the rough places smooth.

People: We praise the Holy One who brings evenness and stability amid the upheavals of our daily lives.

Reader: O people of God, prepare the way of the Lord!

P: Spirit: Soften our hearts, heighten our hopes, and forge a way where there seems to be no way.

A: We light this second candle to make our lives open and ready to receive the shining presence of our Lord Jesus Christ!

* **Reading, Lighting the Advent Candle and Prayer**

* **Opening Carol** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

p. 8

* **Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Let us prepare for God's coming in a form we can only begin to understand.

P: Caring God, we confess that we are not quite ready for your rule in our midst. We are feeling rushed, pushed, scattered, fragmented, distracted and a walking loneliness amongst the crowds and piped-in music. Bring a new day to disturb and remake us, to repair and reclaim us with your powerful abiding love. . .

(A time for silent confession)

* **Words of Assurance**

L: God is our creator and redeemer. God called you by name, and even now sends the Holy Spirit to plant forgiveness and restoration in your soul. In Jesus Christ, you will receive all the good things you need.

P: Thanks be to God!

* **We Give Glory to God** (Insert) "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" (Sing together)

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 40: 1-9 p. 667

Special Music "Sheep May Safely Graze" by J.S. Bach arr. by Sharon Rogers
Jubellation Handbell Choir

Reading from the Gospel Mark 1: 1-8 p. 34

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Advent: Getting Ready for Christmas" *Pastor Teresa*

Hymn #48 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread and the Cup are Shared

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

L: God in your mercy

P: Hear our prayer

Congregational Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (Spoken together)

A: 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.

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings

* **Doxology** "Give Thanks" (Sing together)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

A: For all your good gifts we give our humble thanks, O Lord. Please use our gifts to multiply your love, fill the hungry with good food, and make the pathway smooth. Amen.

WE FOLLOW THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

Receiving of New Members:

Introduction

New Member Questions

Prayer of Dedication

Congregational Welcome: We joyfully welcome you, Pamela, to your family of faith here at Community Presbyterian Church. May you continue to be nurtured here, growing in grace and spirit. And may our friendship with you be deepened, so that together we will celebrate with happy hearts our fellowship and service to our loving Lord Jesus Christ.

* **Hymn #2** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (vs. 1)

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational Response Hymn #2** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (vs. 2)

Postlude

Worship Notes:

- *All those who are able, please stand where you see an asterisk**
- *Bolded words are spoken or sung together by the people.*

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Teresa Roberts
Liturgists: Dick Massaro

Pianist: Judy Kereakos
Choir Director: Denise Swinbank

8:45 a.m. Jubellation Handbell Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Worship Service/2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion/New Member Sunday

Worship Assistants	Greeter	Nursery Attendant(s)	Library Attendant
Linda Overton Tammy Rider Bruce Felger	Bill Webbles	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Margaret Gardner

10:30 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship time provided by Stacey Kopecky.

10:45 a.m. **Sunday School.** All children ages 2-11 will meet in their assigned rooms when they hear the Sunday School bell. Sunday School dismisses at 11:45 am. All are welcome to attend.

Class	Room	Lesson
Ages 2 - Grade 5	Purple Room	
Youth Grades 6-12	Black Room	
Adult Education	Library	Lesson: Holy Land Revealed

(Questions about Sunday School? Contact Denise Swinbank 753-2420)

THIS WEEK AT CPC:

Monday	7:30 p.m.	Aikido
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	B.I.G. Support Group
	6:30 p.m.	Deacons
Wednesday	6:30 a.m.	Prayer Group at Madonna Towers
	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study "The Beatitudes"
	5:30 p.m.	Food backpacks
	7:10 p.m.	Choir practice
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Worship & Music
	7:30 p.m.	Aikido
Friday	7:00 p.m.	A.S. Support Group in Great Room
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Aikido
	1:00 p.m.	39 Forever Christmas Luncheon at Michael's
	5-10 p.m.	Great Room in use
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Jubellation Handbell practice
	9:30a.m.	Worship/3rd Sunday of Advent/Channel One Sunday

COMING UP AT CPC

December 17 Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Advent and Christmas Services:
November 27 th —1 st Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program Sunday Dec 18th at 9:30 am
The Longest Night Service, Thursday Dec 22nd at 7 pm
Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, Dec 24th at 6 pm
Christmas Morning Service, Sunday, Dec 25th, at 9 am

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Welcome to worship on this Lord's Day.

We are blessed by your presence and hope that you will experience the love of God reflected in the life of this community of faith. Nursery care is provided from 9:15-11:45 a.m. for ages three and under, though we love to have children of all ages remain with us in worship. Please complete the friendship pad in your row during the announcements and pass it back so that you are able to greet your neighbors by name.

Jubellation HandBell Ringers: Bruce Felger, Evan Powell, Guy Vig, Ivy Pillers, Tammy Rider, Joanne Powell, Nancy Massaro, Amy Ward, Gwen Riggan, Darlene Lucas and Judi Berg. Director: Judy Kereakos

The 2011 Joy Offering...The Sunday before Christmas, Dec 18th, we will receive The Joy Offering. This is a special offering collected in churches throughout our denomination which is designated equally towards supporting the assistance programs for clergy and church workers in special needs through the Board of Pensions and the racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). Envelopes are available in the Narthex or in your bulletin that Sunday.

Christmas Eve Service...Yes, The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is 12/24 at 7:00 p.m. and Christmas Day Nativity and Carols Service is 12/25 at 9:00 a.m.

The Longest Night: ...A service of comfort and hope. Care enough to invite someone!!! This quiet evening worship service is for people who struggle with the holidays because of grief, illness, job loss – any calamity will do. It's a humane idea, to set

aside a special time for mourners during the heart of bustling Christmas preparations. If you know someone who is struggling this Christmas, invite them to join you. Or perhaps you just need a quiet space to pray and be with God- then you will want to be there for "The Longest Night."

Salvation Army Bell Ringers...The sign-up sheet for ringing bells at Hy-Vee Crossroads for December 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is on the board in the Narthex.

Update from Mark Jensen, Financial Secretary ...Through November 27th, 40 pledges for 2012 have been received. Last year, 56 pledges were received through December 5, 2011, so we're running behind where we were last year. If you haven't yet done so, please prayerfully consider what you want to pledge to CPC for 2012 and return a pledge card to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Thanks!

We welcome our newest member! Today we will receive Pamela Joy Rider into membership with our church family. Pam has been involved over many years with our congregation. The mother of 3 children (Destiny, Jesiah and Zoe), Pam most recently was a member of Claremont Presbyterian Church. They warmly entrust her to us with the understanding that it will be great joy for Pam to join with her friends and her mother, Rev. Tammy Rider in worship and fellowship at CPC. May God bless Pam with abundant love and grace, as we share together our lives and faith as the body of Christ. Please be sure to join us for the reception following the service and welcome dear Pam!

A Glimpse of Advent in Our World: Week Two "Prepare"

Today you will hear Paul Simon's Song on You Tube: "Getting Ready for Christmas Day"

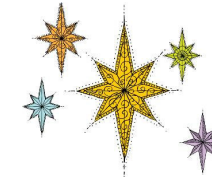
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA81JjI40V0&feature=relmfu>

- (1) When you have a special event (birthday, anniversary, vacation, gala, trip, etc.) coming up, what do you do to get prepared?
- (2) Which preparations for Christmas help you? Which do not help?
- (3) Consider ways you want to prepare or repair your heart/mind/soul/life for Christmas this year?
- (4) Make a 1-sentence statement of your intention (#3), and repeat it at the dawn of each day this week.



Invocation

Holy Preparer,
Counterweight of surprise,
Plumb line of hospitality;
You are fresh hay quickly strewn,
Soft linen bands newly torn,
To hold the One who is to come.
O Preparer, catcher of the off guard,
Leveler of all things high and low;
You are the smoother of rough edges
And bearer of good news.
Come, reveal our webs of apathy
With holy, sweeping light.
Amen.



A voice cries out in our wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord:
Soften your hearts;
Heighten your hopes;
Forge a way where there seems no way;
For Christ is coming to make all things new.
O people of God, prepare the way of the Lord!"
Amen.

GIVING REPORT			
Nov. '11 Weekly Average	\$2,526.00	Special Offerings	
Year to Date Avg. 2011	\$3,174.88	Thank Offering	\$ 635.00
Budgeted Weekly for '11	\$3,461.54	Peace Offering	\$ 837.00
Per Capita Received '2011	\$1,649.68	USA Disaster Relief	\$ 774.25
Total Per Capita to be Paid '11	\$4,142.56	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,166.00



Community Presbyterian Church
3705 55th Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 280-9291
www.cpcroch.org

