

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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

May 17, 2020

Welcome to worship this morning! **Bulletin Cue: Bold indicates congregational response.**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Help in using Google Meet for worship

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

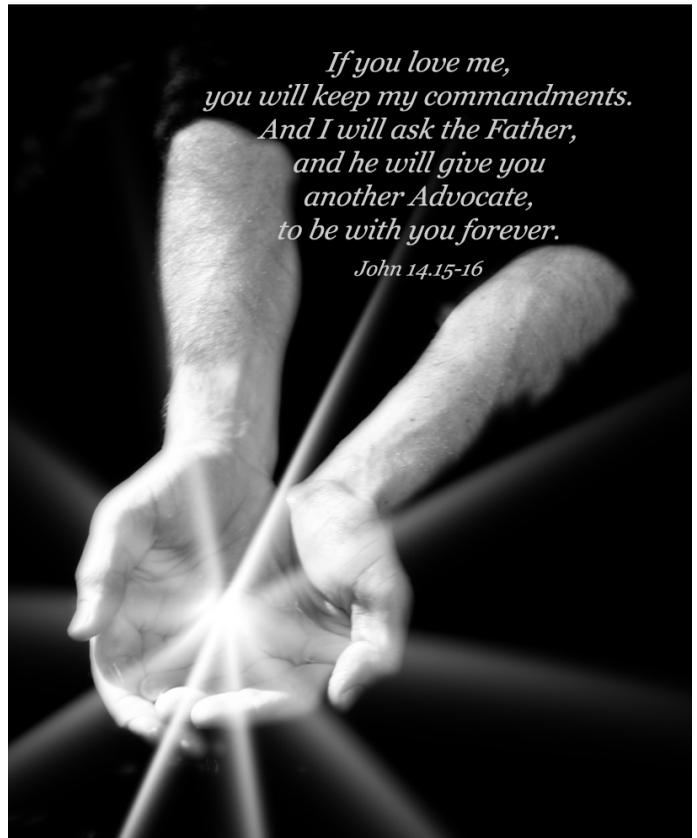
Praise God, the Artist of creation,
Who holds heaven and earth in a single peace.

**In God we live and move and have our being;
it is the Lord who gives us life and breath.**

Though illness invades the world,
God has kept us among the living.

**God formed all people to seek and know Love;
Bless our God, who is faithful, and is near.**

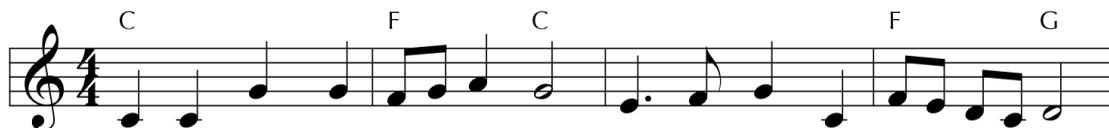
OPENING HYMN GTG 19 God of Great and God of Small



*If you love me,
you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you
another Advocate,
to be with you forever.*

John 14.15-16

God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

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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

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments," you said.
And you promised an Advocate and Comforter.
You were faithful to your promise.

But we have broken your law of love.

We have hoarded resources, rather than feeding your sheep.

We have stoked competition, rather than kneeling at others' feet.

We have kept silent, rather than testifying to our belief.

For not showing our love for you by loving one another, forgive us.
Help us obey your commandments and keep us always faithful to your Word,
by the power of your indwelling Spirit, who is with us and among us always.

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

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 Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 66:8-20

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

Blessed be the Beloved, the Heart of our hearts,
You keep us attuned to life and guide our feet on solid ground.

For you have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried;

You allowed us to fall into the net.

You allowed us to reap all that we have sown;
we went through fire and water

Yet you have brought us through our pain and into your presence..

I surrender to Love, and put my soul in your keeping,

All that I promised when I was in trouble and pain, I offer to you.

If I had cherished greed and power, I would have lost sight of you,

But you heard the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be the Comforter, the loving companion

Who embraces me and renews my life.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 8-9, 13-16

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.... Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? Even if you suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what others fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

GOSPEL READING

John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Unity

Rev. Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 306

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

verses 1, 3, 4, 5



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
4 When we are called to part, it gives us
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
in - ward pain; but we shall still be
shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

verses 1, 3, 4

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 resurrection!

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.**

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
race may be. All chil - dren of the
south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, May 17

9:30 am Online Worship Service

THIS WEEK AT CPC

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

Monday, May 18

Tuesday, May 19

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee

Wednesday, May 20

6:30 am Prayer Group

12:00 pm Newsletter Article Deadline

6:00 pm Online Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 24

9:30 am Online Worship Service



Judy Leal
Jane, Ed, Elissa and Burgstaler family
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Lyal Powell

*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	Katherine Ross
IT Support	Ronda and Bill Marshall