

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

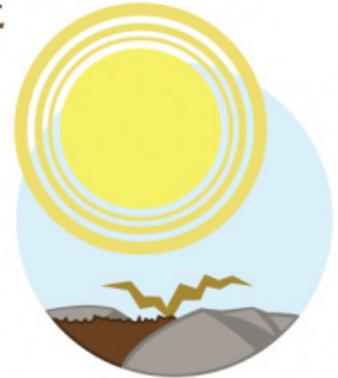
3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester, MN • [www.cpcrochester.org](http://www.cpcrochester.org) • 507-280-9291

*Welcome to worship  
this morning!*

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

**July 12, 2020**

## THE PARABLE



## OF THE SOWER



### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth and everything in it come from God,  
This dazzling rainbow of life is all God's gift;

**Our joy is to praise you, our Maker.**

Blessed are those who look for you in beauty,  
Who find you in the serenity of a sunset,  
And in the morning chorus of the birds.

**Our delight is to recognize you in every good thing.**

Beloved Creator, awaken us to see your love everywhere;

**May our song be prayer; may our work be praise.**



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:

*Refrain*



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil.

**Trusting in God's grace, let us examine our lives.**

CONFESSION

God, you made earth a garden, and placed us here;  
 but we abused your gift and lost our way.  
 Still you lavish love on us, but we neglect or ignore it.  
 Sometimes we are like rocky ground.  
 We welcome your word when life is simple.  
 But as soon as we face challenges,  
 we forget your teachings and our faith withers.  
 Sometimes, we are a thicket full of thorns.  
 We clamor for more stuff and step over the needy.  
 Your word is choked out of our hearts.

**Forgive us, Lord.**

**Let your Spirit work within and among us;  
 make us good soil.**

**Weed out our resistance  
 and water us with your grace,  
 so that your word might grow within us  
 and we might bear fruit that will last.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

Just as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth plants and sprout new growth, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you will burst into song, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn the cypress will grow; instead of the brier, the myrtle will flourish; and it shall be a reminder of God's goodness, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 65

God, you are the hope of the whole world, even distant islands.

You made the mountains by your great power.

You calm the waves of the sea, and quiet the uproar of the peoples.

**Dawn and dusk shout for joy at your wonders.**

You care for the earth and water it with rivers and rain;

Your showers make our fields soft and lush,

You bless our growing gardens, giving us food to share.

**The season of abundance is the glory of the year;**

All you touch comes to life; cattle graze in green pastures;

The valleys are covered with ripening grain;

**The whole earth laughs and sings for joy!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:1-2, 10-11 (adapted)

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Now two laws exist: the law of God's Spirit of life and the law of sin and death.

The law of life in Christ Jesus triumphs over the law of death.

If Christ is alive in you, even though you may still do things that are wrong, you are alive because of his goodness and love for you.

The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.

When that Spirit is alive in you, then you will have life, too, body and soul, because of the Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Gardener's Joy*

Pastor Jan

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

(vs. 1 and 2)



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.

### *Refrain*



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

## 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.

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 308

O God, in Whom All Life Begins

(vs. 1 and 2)

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go now to live to the glory of God,  
As inhabitants of earth,  
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.

**Thanks be to God.**

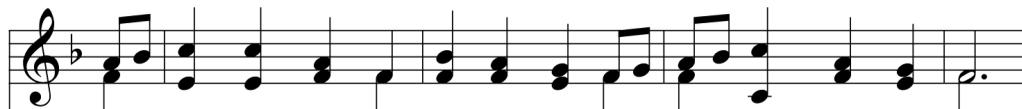
Now may the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in believing  
that you overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

# O God in Whom All Life Begins 308



1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,  
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;  
So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.  
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, July 12**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, July 13

Office Closed

6:00 pm Building Rental: Med City Tai Chi

Tuesday, July 14

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Wednesday, July 15

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Confirmation

Friday, June 17

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

**Sunday, July 19**

9:30 am Online Worship Service



Judy Leal  
Jane, Ed, Elissa and Burgstaler family  
Connie Holst  
MariLynn Johnson  
Vera Atkinson's great-grandson,  
Kaiden Nelson

*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

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

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

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

\* **Tuesday/Friday 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	Sue Chipman
IT Support	Ronda and Bill Marshall