



**ALL THOSE WHO
EXALT THEMSELVES
WILL BE HUMBLLED,
AND THOSE WHO
HUMBLE THEMSELVES
WILL BE EXALTED**

Luke 14:11

October 26, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

We humble ourselves before our God, ready to hear and receive God's truth.

*OPENING HYMN GTG 402

How Lovely, Lord



1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long-ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us open ourselves in this time of prayer, being truthful in our confession as we humble ourselves before our God.

Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Let us hear and receive your truth. Amen.

Hear the Good News!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us, then, to listen well. Open our ears to your truth; open our minds to the unexpected. Humble us here, in your presence, so nothing stands in the way — not pride, not distraction, not weary hearts. Let your Word reach us as we are now. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army that I sent against you.
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Beautiful Savior

CPC Choir

Arranged by Anna Laura Page

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!*

Beautiful Savior, Thee we adore.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two people went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this one went home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted."

These words are trustworthy and true. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Commentary by Teri McDowell Ott, *Presbyterian Outlook*
supplemented by words from Rev David Lose, *Working Preacher*

Ivy Pillers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2: 6-11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

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

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 741

Guide My Feet

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

The first system of the musical score for 'Guide My Feet' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics '1 Guide my feet while I run this race;' are aligned with the notes. The system ends with a fermata over the final note, followed by the instruction '(yes, my Lord!)'.

guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

The second system of the musical score for 'Guide My Feet' continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics 'guide my feet while I run this race;' are aligned with the notes. The system ends with a fermata over the final note, followed by the instruction '(yes, my Lord!)'.

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Hold my hand ... | 5 Search my heart ... |
| 3 Stand by me ... | 6 Guide my feet ... |
| 4 I'm your child ... | |

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion, a single slice, of the abundance you've handed to us. Still, we press them into your care, set them down where they might become more. We hand over these gifts, grateful, but also in awe at how you shape small things into good news. Let these gifts find their way into the broken places, find the ones carrying heavy burdens. May these humble offerings help relieve those who need it most.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/ LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, sustain us today through your Word and the act of worship. Deepen our longing to understand and fulfill your will. Guide our hearts toward your path of righteousness, enabling us to walk confidently in your guidance. Hear our prayers, God of love, as we name not only our own needs but also those of people across the world. God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We lift up in prayer those grappling with the aftermath of natural disasters, those working to rebuild their lives after floods and wildfires, and those mourning the loss of loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. We pray for those who are weary, those facing the daily struggle to pay bills and provide meals, and those burdened by overwhelming challenges. We also remember those enduring life in war zones, individuals yearning for justice and peace amid chaos.

God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for leaders, administrators and decision-makers who face the challenge of not being able to satisfy everyone, yet remain committed to pursuing justice and righteousness. We ask that our nation's leaders support those in need, stand up for the oppressed, and resist the temptations of wealth and power. We seek an end to conflicts, a spirit of collaboration among people, and a path toward peace for our nation.

God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for those who are unwell and the caregivers who support them. We remember those battling depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges. Release us from the shame and stigma that prevent us from recognizing our needs and seeking the help we truly deserve. Foster within us a shared sense of responsibility for the health and wellbeing of all your children.

Finally, O God, shape us for service, so that we may become the answers to the prayers we raise. Let our actions reflect your Word and be inspired by Jesus Christ, the One who saves.

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, as we pray how Christ taught us, saying,

Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 761

Called as Partners in Christ' Service



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to- geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



*BLESSING AND CHARGE

a variation on Numbers 6:24-26

May we leave this house of worship today,
quick to listen,
slow to speak,
open to hearing and responding to God's truth.

May God bless you and keep you,
be kind and gracious to you,
may God look upon you with favor
and bring you peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
and provided for free distribution.



Questions for reflection on Luke 18:9-14

1. When have you “gone up to the temple” to worship with your body but not your heart? What helps you move from simply showing up to truly opening yourself to God’s presence?
2. The Pharisee’s prayer begins with gratitude but slips into comparison. Where do you notice that temptation in your own life or community — and how might humility reshape your prayer?
3. The tax collector leaves justified, in right relationship to God, but Jesus leaves us wondering how his life might change. After encountering God’s mercy, what shifts – small or large – might God be inviting you to make in your life, relationships, or work?



Special Congregational Meeting

November 2
following worship

Reason: to vote on next year’s
slate of officers

Plan to be here and stay for
this short meeting!



All Saints Sunday, November 2: Lighting Candles for Remembrance

On Sunday November 2nd, we will remember those dear to us who have passed from this life. The worship service, including communion, will reflect our deep gratitude for God’s promise of the resurrection and the eternal life that is ours in Christ. All, who wish to do so, may bring a memorial candle to be placed on a central table and lit from the Christ candle

prior to the worship service. During Joys and Concerns, we will have a chance to share the names of those specially remembered in this way. Please send names of loved ones to be included in the bulletin for All Saints by October 28.



Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



Sunday, October 26 Reformation Sunday

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Monday, October 27

9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

6:00 pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi

Tuesday, October 28

12:00 pm Bulletin Items Due

7:00 pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Net.

7:30 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 29

8:00 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, October 30

5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, November 2 All Saints Sunday

**9:30 am Worship with Communion
- Onsite and Online**

10:30 am Special Congregational Meeting

2:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughters Jenny & Elissa
Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline
Jennifer Hall and Sage Hall
Amy Ward and family

Sherrie Wilson

Vera Atkinson

Bonnie Kinion

***To be added to the prayer list, please con-
tact the office: 507-280-9291 or via email:
office@cpcrochester.org.***

Serving in Worship Today

Speaker	Ivy Pillers
Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
Guest Pianist	Judy Kereakos
Special Music	CPC Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard & Bruce Felger

Church Staff

Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Pianist	Tianyao Xie
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch