



# Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

**May 4, 2025 10:30 a.m.**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

## Order of Worship

\*\*indicates to stand as you are able.

### Prelude

*I Come with Joy*

arr. J. Carter

Romans 15:13: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

"I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free; the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me. The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen,  
but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here."

(words: B. Wren, 1968; music (*Dove of Peace*) is an American folk melody, Hope Publishing Co., 1971)

(this piano solo: Hope Publishing Co., 1998)

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

## GATHERING

### Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

### \*\*Call to Worship

Tom Engle

One: We gather to praise the God who made us, saves us, and encourages us!

**Many: We gather to greet the new day by praising God for renewed life.**

One: God created us for relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

**Many: Let us honor those relationships today and every day.**

One: We seek to care for the earth created by a Holy God of Wonders,  
and to uphold the well-being of all humankind, made in God's image.

**Many: Let us honor those relationships today and every day.**

One: May we commit to new ways of respecting and healing in your created world,  
as a witness to Jesus' transforming love.

May we together honor the one who created the heaven, the earth, the sea,  
and everything in them.

**All: Let us honor the Risen One who by God's Spirit renews all things.**

### \*\*Hymn - 401

*Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

## **Call to Confession, followed by Silence for Reflection and Prayer**

### **Common Prayer of Confession**

God of birth, God of joy, God of resurrection life, we come as people hungry for good news.  
We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth.  
We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures  
and have overlooked the joy you offer us.  
We have been so concerned with making a living or living well  
that we have missed the life you set among us.

**Forgive us, gracious God.**

**Change our hearts and lives. By your Spirit, enable us to bring healing.**

Teach us, Creator, how to protect, repair and replace your "Very Good."  
Teach us to live sustainably,  
to be satisfied with and grateful for "enough,"  
to resist consuming or hanging onto more than we need.

Guide us to repair and replace your Very Good:  
our surroundings, our habitat, our climate, our whole environment.

**Send your spirit over the waters again; stir us to action, justice, and wise choices.**

**We give thanks that as those made in your image and empowered by the Risen Jesus,  
we can participate in the restoration of all things. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

.....Hear the Good News--- In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven: **Thanks be to God!**

### **\*\*Response in Song-246, v.5**

#### *Christ is Alive*

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

## **WORD**

### **Moment with Children**

Chad Board

*\*Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the worship livestream on Facebook*

*Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience  
Please see announcements for instructions.*

### **Word in Music**

#### *In Remembrance*

arr. B. Greer

Luke 22: 19-20: *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

(words and music by R. Courtney/B. Red; Broadman Press, 1972)

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Tom Engle

## Scriptures:

### Acts 3:11-21

Liturgist Tom Engle

<sup>11</sup> While the healed man clung to Peter and John, all the people rushed toward them at Solomon's Porch, completely amazed. <sup>12</sup> Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: "You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our ancestors—has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence, even though he had already decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, the very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus' name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

<sup>17</sup> "Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But this is how God fulfilled what he foretold through all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Change your hearts and lives! Turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away. <sup>20</sup> Then the Lord will provide a season of relief from the distress of this age and he will send Jesus, whom he handpicked to be your Christ. <sup>21</sup> Jesus must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things, about which God spoke long ago through his holy prophets.

## Gospel Text:

### Acts 4:23-31

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

<sup>23</sup> After their release, Peter and John returned to the brothers and sisters and reported everything the chief priests and elders had said. <sup>24</sup> They listened, then lifted their voices in unison to God, "Master, you are the one who created the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup> You are the one who spoke by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

*Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?*

<sup>26</sup> *The kings of the earth took their stand  
and the rulers gathered together as one  
against the Lord and against his Christ.*

<sup>27</sup> Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with Gentiles and Israelites, did gather in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> They did what your power and plan had already determined would happen. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, take note of their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with complete confidence. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to bring healing and enable signs and wonders to be performed through the name of Jesus, your holy servant." <sup>31</sup> After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking God's word with confidence.

L: We are witnesses to these things: Jesus, the Christ, is risen from the dead.

**P: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

Confident Restoration

**\*\*Hymn of Response - 53, v 1-2**

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

Prayers of the People

THANKSGIVING/EUCHARIST

**\*\*Invitation to Offering**

*There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!*

**Offertory**

*Come, Share the Lord*

arr. J. Carter

*1 Corinthians 12:12-13: For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

*"We gather here in Jesus' name; his love is burning in our hearts like living flame; for through the loving Son the Father makes us one: come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord. No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs. Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs. We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King; now we anticipate the feast for which we wait: come, take the bread; come drink the wine; come, share the Lord."*

*(words and music: B.J. Leech, 1984; Fred Bock Music Company, Inc.)  
(this piano solo: Fred Bock Music Company, Inc., 1998)*

**\*\*Doxology - 240, v. 4**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.	And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, creator of the universe, with joy we praise you and give you thanks. You brought light from darkness... Therefore we join our voices with all those who sing your praise:

Hymnal 552--

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

1 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
2 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, most holy God, for the gift .... and offering ourselves to live for him in joy and grateful praise:

Hymnal 553--

*Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen*

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us... All thanks and praise to you, O triune God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## **Breaking of the Bread**

### **Communion of the People**

*Offer communion to each other, passing the bread and holding it for all to take together:*

...the body of Christ, given for you. Be renewed! **Amen.**

*Then pass the cup among you, holding it for all to take together.*

The blood of Christ, poured out for you. Be renewed! **Amen.**

### **Communion Music**

*Glory in the Cross*

by J. Southbridge

Galatians 6:14: *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which  
the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

"I am only standing now because of mercy. I am nothing but a trophy of God's grace,  
poured out upon a soul so undeserving, when on a cruel cross He took my place."  
(words and music are from an African American Spiritual, and are public domain)

(this organ solo: Lorenz Publishing, 1995)

## **Prayer after Communion**

## **SENDING**

**\*\*Hymn - 370**

*This is My Father's World*

**\*\*Blessing and Charge**

### **Postlude**

*Alleluia*

arr. R.M. Stults

Romans 6:9: *Alleluia! Christ being raised from the dead will die no more; death has no more dominion over Him.*

(by Richard Morrison Stults, 1923; public domain) (this instrumental organ solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 1940)

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# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## Attention all graduates!

CMPC would like to recognize all of our graduates on Graduation Sunday, May 11th! If you or someone you know from the CMPC family is graduating from high school, trade school, college, or graduate school, please send us a brief paragraph featuring the graduate's name, the institution they are graduating from, and future plans. Pictures should also be included. Please send write-ups to Kathleen at [office@cmpcusa.org](mailto:office@cmpcusa.org) by Tuesday, May 6th.

## Fruit of the Spirit

The Wednesday night (7:30 pm) Bible Study will begin a study of The Fruit of the Spirit on May 7. This will run through May and June. For the Zoom link, contact Kathy Koch at [kathrynkoch79@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynkoch79@gmail.com).

## VBS Volunteers

VBS is looking for creative and hardworking people that would be interested in helping turn Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church into our own True North Alaskan Wilderness for VBS this year! We are looking for people to cut, glue and prep decorations from home as well as decorate in the days before VBS. If you are interested please email Laura Jean Graybeal at [vbs@cmpcusa.org](mailto:vbs@cmpcusa.org)

## Sharing Good News from CMPC Session!

In our journey to install a new pastor, CMPC has reached a milestone! Baltimore Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has given us the go-ahead to form the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC):

The PNC will be involved in a calling process, in which they will seek to discern God's call for our new pastoral leadership. The 2025 CMPC Nominating Committee will be seeking God's will in identifying nominees to serve on this committee, which will be broadly representative of our entire congregation. As we work to form the PNC, this is the period of time for the congregation to suggest names of others or indicate your own interest in serving on the PNC. To express your own interest or suggest another member to serve, please send an email to:

Judy Brown, Chairperson of the 2025 Nominating Committee [jbrown10632@gmail.com](mailto:jbrown10632@gmail.com)

Qualities that are needed to serve on the PNC include:

- (a) the member is actively involved in the life of the church and are also able to assume additional responsibility,
- (b) the member must be able to maintain full confidentiality of the process even from family members,
- (c) the member must be willing to support PC-USA and Baltimore Presbytery's policies,
- (d) the member must be able to follow process and work with others toward consensus, prioritizing the best interest of the congregation over personal interests.

The PNC's work may involve frequent meetings over an indefinite time period. Please prayerfully consider this important task!

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



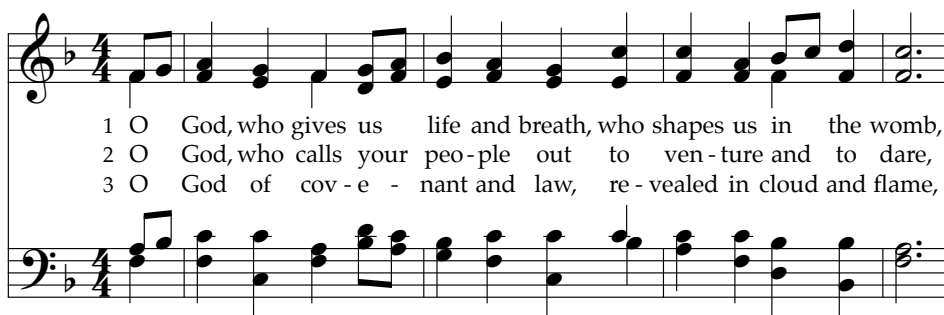
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



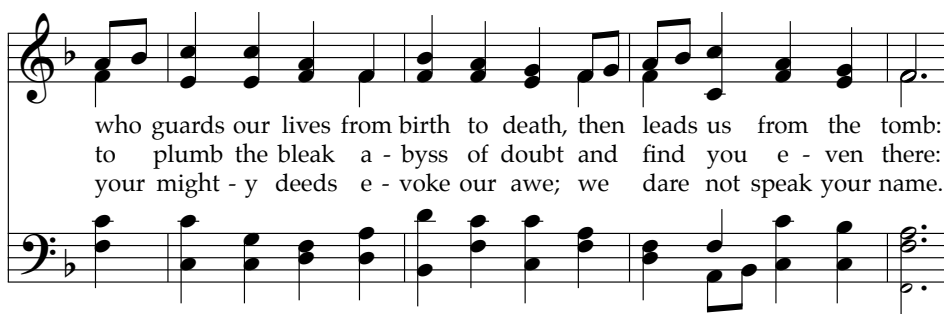
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

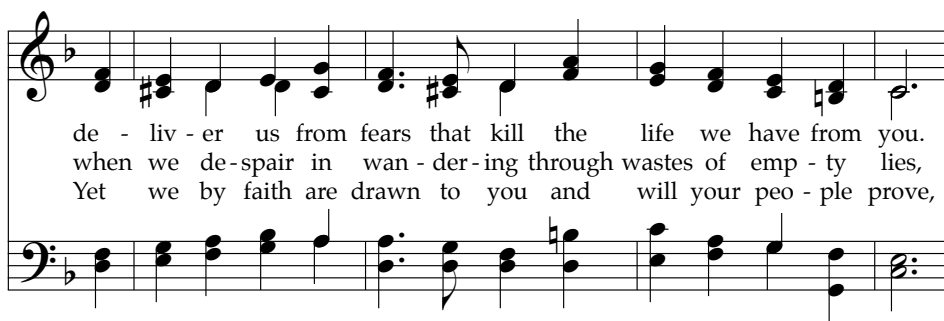
## 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



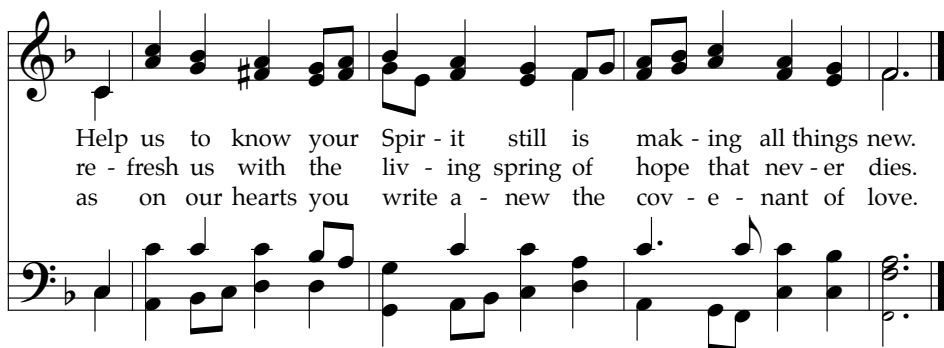
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,  
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
 when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



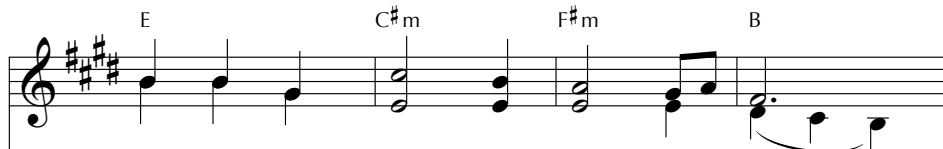
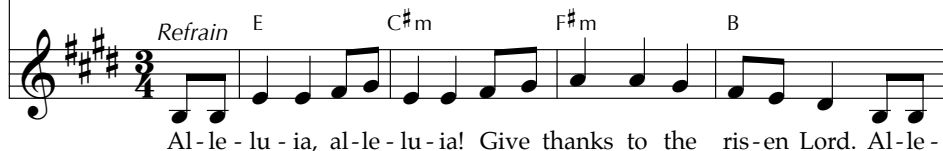
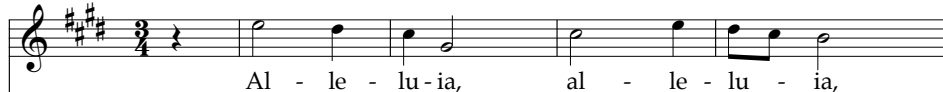
Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).



## 240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant



- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

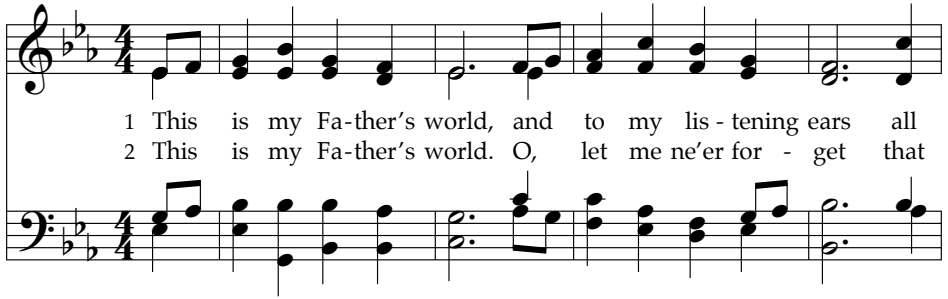


Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.



This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

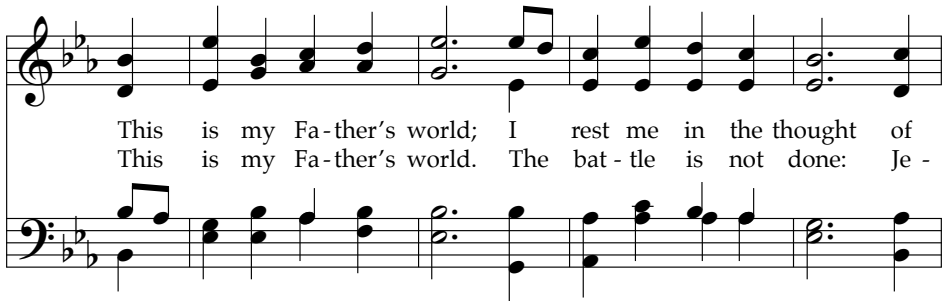
# This Is My Father's World 370



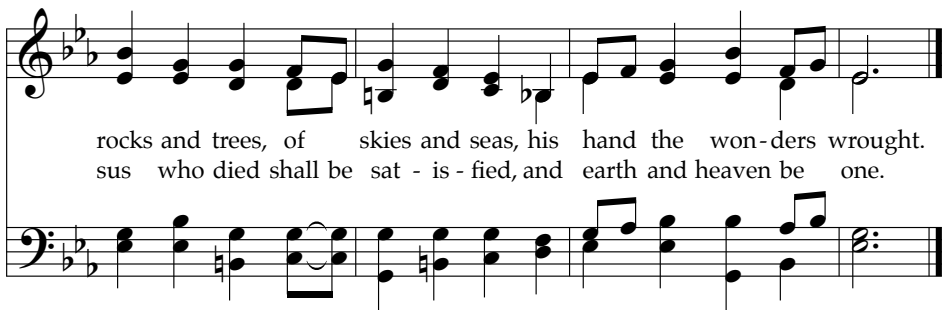
1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all  
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
 This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -



rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.  
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

When pastor of a Presbyterian church in Lockport, New York, the author of this text referred to his morning walks as "going out to see my Father's world." The tune created for these words is based on an English melody the composer learned from his mother when he was a boy.