Rochester Christian Reformed Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP
October 11, 2026 – 10:00 AM
Ordinary Time

Prelude — *Close to Thee* — Silas J. Vail (1818-1883)

Preparing to Worship

> I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken. (*Ezekiel 34:22-24*)

Adult Choir — "God Has Called Us" — Robert A. Hobby & Susan Palo Cherwein

Call to Worship

* Hymn — "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" — #138

* Welcome and Greeting from God, affirmed by congregational **"Amen"**

Call to Confession

> **Liturgist**: All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!
>
> **All: Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"**
>
> **Liturgist**: And they said to each other,
>
> **All: "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."**
>
> **Liturgist**: The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?
>
> **All: You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.**

Liturgist: So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill.

All: They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Lord, we have indeed lacked faith in you. We have lashed out at others when we ourselves have been to blame. In our selfishness, we have failed to care for one another. Help us to see ourselves as we truly are so that we may repent and turn to you.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Our hope lies in the Lord, the Good Shepherd who cares for us and forgives all of our sins. Hear these words of assurance from *Ezekiel 34*:

"For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice."

All: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord our God!

* The Peace

Liturgist: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading *Exodus 17:1-7*

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation "The People Factor"

Prayer of Application

* Hymn "The Servant Song" #309

Congregational Prayer

Offertory

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. (*Deuteronomy 16:17*)

Connection Group Report - Men's Bible Study

* Hymn "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" #443

* God's Blessing, affirmed by congregational **"Amen"**

Postlude *Allegro vivo* Louis Raffy (1868-1931)

Leading Us in Worship Today:

Minister: Pastor Bill Vis
Organist: Julianne Zhu
Adult Choir Director: Lara Larsson
Liturgist: Tim Frelier
Congregational Song Leader: Lara Larsson
Children's Message: Jay Falvo
Offertory Deacon: Ray Croucher
Connection Group Report: Men's Bible Study
Congregational Prayer: Amy Cline

Resources for Worship: CCLI #2832768 ONE LICENSE #733715 A