

ROCK PRAIRIE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:30 a.m.



8605 East County Road A

Janesville, WI 53546

(608) 752-1172

Office hours Mon–Thu, 8:30am – 2:30pm

Rev. Dr Bruce A. Jones

** Please stand if you are able*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE

SYLVIA O'CONNOR

"Neo-classique" / Hayes

"How Majestic is Your Name" / Smith Hayes

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" / David

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" / Spiritual, Raney

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

SYLVIA O'CONNOR / CHOIR

"In You, We Are One" / Althouse

*CALL TO WORSHIP

MATTHEW 21

One: The vineyard belongs to God. The whole created order of the world.

All: *We come as workers in God's vineyard, grateful for God's gifts.*

One: Christ gathers us together at one table of faithfulness.

All: *We join the communion of saints, united in love and purpose.*

One: Let us worship our Lord who equips us, calls us, and works through us.

All: *From north and south, east and west, we come with thankful hearts to offer ourselves to God.*

One: Let us worship the God who feeds us, forms us, and sends us.

All: *We gather to worship the One who equips us for every good work.*

***HYMN #685 + HFG "In Christ There Is No East or West"**

THE CHURCH CONFESSES AND SEEKS ASSURANCE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PHILIPPIANS 1

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

MATTHEW 21

God of All Nations, You plant us in your vineyard, yet we do not always bear the fruit of justice, compassion, and generosity. Yet we resist your plans, cling to our own ways. You call us to unity, yet we cling to division. You give us gifts for the common good, yet we elevate our own importance. You entrust us with gifts meant for service, yet we often hold back. Hear our prayer.

Time for Personal Prayer and Examination

Forgive us. Renew us. Shape us into a people who serve with humility, generosity, and joy.

Through Christ, our Cornerstone, restore us to the right relationship with You and with one another. Faithful God, You call us to shared leadership, yet we cling to control. Forgive us. Renew our hearts. Make us faithful stewards who reflect Christ's love in all we do. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

PHILIPPIANS 1

One: The Lord who began a good work in you will bring it to completion. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and made into a new creation in Christ.

All: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We live as people made new by One Spirit.***

PASSING THE PEACE

***GRATEFUL RESPONSE #323 v1 + HFG**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

***Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!***

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

1 CORINTHIANS 12

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:33-46

WICKED TENANTS' PARABLE

After Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, Jesus delivered a sharp message challenging the religious leaders in the temple during the Holy Week. He indicts their corrupt temple leadership with a parable.

- *The Landowner: Represents God, who established His creation.*
- *The Vineyard: Represents Israel, imagery found in Isaiah 5.*
- *The Servants: Symbolize the prophets sent by God who were rejected.*
- *The Son: Represents Jesus Himself, who was also rejected and killed.*
- *Judgment: Jesus asks what the owner will do to the wicked; the leaders answer that the owner will destroy them and give the vineyard away.*

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they

said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

KIDS KIRK

REV BRUCE

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO COME UP TO THE CHANCEL

#226 + HFG "JESUS LOVES ME"

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he strong."

***Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so."***

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Let All the World Rejoice"

CHOIR

THE EPISTLE

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-9

PAUL'S PHILIPPIAN PRAYER

In this joyful letter, the Apostle Paul Paul and Timothy identify themselves humbly as "servants" of Christ Jesus.

The saints in Philippi, specifically mentioning elders and deacons. Paul thanks God every time he remembers them, praying with deep joy because of their active partnership in the gospel. With total confidence that God will complete the good work that Christ's love will overflow in the believers' lives.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

One: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God***

SERMON *“Spiritual Leadership”* REV. DR. BRUCE A. JONES

THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"In You, We Are One"

CHOIR

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

JOHN 14

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us offer our thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Christ meets us here...singing your praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

All who trust in the Lord...holy and living sacrifice.

***We believe in one Spirit who makes us
one body in Christ. We believe in one God
who strengthens us with truth.***

In Christ, we stand firm. In the Spirit, we are one.

Pour out your Holy Spirit...together in your kingdom.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (MALOTTE)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

GATHER IN A CIRCLE AROUND THE SANCTUARY

***HYMN #277 + GG** *“Jesus Remember Me”*

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS - INTINCTION

MISSION FOR STEWARDSHIP

ED HALE

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

***RESPONSE #2036 + SF** *“Take my Life, and Let It Be”*
“Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its
treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever,
only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GALATIANS 6

Giver of Every Good Gift, receive our gifts: our time, our talents, our treasure. Use them to build up your church, strengthen our shared leadership, and bear witness to Christ’s love in the world. Make us faithful stewards of all You entrust to us. May our offering strengthen your church, deepen our unity, and bear fruit that glorifies You and strengthens your church. Amen.

***HYMN #399 + HFG** *“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”*

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

SYLVIA O’CONNOR

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” | Purcell, Berry



Jesus, Remember Me

227

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

This chant-like setting, intended for repeated singing, comes from the ecumenical monastic community in Taizé, France. Based on the prayer of the penitent thief crucified with Jesus (Luke 23:42), this text is a poignant expression of the desire to be present with Christ in glory.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1981

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1981

Text and Music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

REMEMBER ME

Irregular

****Please remember to wear your name tags****

If you do not have one, notify the office and
we will have one made for you.

WORSHIP GUIDE

Bold text said in unison

* Please stand if you are able.

+ GG- *Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal*

+ HFG – *Hymns for the Family of God*

+ SF – *Sing the Faith*, small blue hymnal

- Audio enhancements, larger print Bibles & bulletins,
and children's resources are available
CCLI church license 1555479,
and One License A-73845

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Jeff & Doreen Slowey

Ushers: Bob & Julie Fulton

Liturgist: Kathy Crandall

Kids Kirk: Rev. Bruce

Communion Servers: Dawn Hale, Dave Ott, Vicki Ott,
Bob Paull, Lindi Paull, Jeri Torpy, Chris Zhe

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones

Director of Music: Krista Jones

Piano/Organ Accompanist: Sylvia O'Connor

Administrative Assistant: Sandi Fogle

Bookkeeper: Vacant

Nursery Coordinator: Angela Tyson

Nursery Assistant: Vacant

Audio/Video Technician: Matthew Blija

Church Caretaker: Jason Van Meter

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting or seeking a church home,
we invite you to explore all that happens in the life and
ministry of this church. Speak to our pastor or someone
next to you for more information.

Children are always welcome in worship.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is
provided in the nursery.

Put your piece into
the RPPC puzzle!





Connect with us!

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