



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi, MI 48375
Dr. James N. McGuire

Welcome to Worship

JANUARY 9, 2022

Gathering Song: He Hideth My Soul

† Call to Worship (Psalm 118:1, 4-6, 28,29 ESV)

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Pastor: Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.

People: The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Unison: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

† Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Amos 7:7-17 Responsive

⁷This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

**"The high places of Isaac will be destroyed
and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined;
with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."**

¹⁰Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹For this is what Amos is saying:

**"Jeroboam will die by the sword,
and Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their native land."**

¹²Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴**Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'** ¹⁶**Now then, hear the word of the Lord. You say,**

**"Do not prophesy against Israel,
and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac.'**

¹⁷"Therefore this is what the LORD says:

**"Your wife will become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword.
Your land will be measured and divided up,
and you yourself will die in a pagan country.
And Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their native land."**

Psalm 19:7-11

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸**The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.**

The commands of the LORD are radiant,

giving light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰**They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.**

¹¹By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

† Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
world without end. Amen, Amen.

† Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (page 10)

Offertory

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord**

arr: Lyndell Leatherman

† Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Second Scripture Readings

2 Timothy 3:1-17 Responsive

¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

⁶ **They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.**

⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹ But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

¹⁰ **You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.**

¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ **But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4: 11-16

¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

¹² **For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ **Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.**

¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: The Most Powerful Force in the World

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: From All that Dwell Below the Skies

† Responsive Litany (from Colossians 1)

Pastor: We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will

People: so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way:

Pastor: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

People: and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Unison: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music

Reminders and Announcements

From Pastor McGuire: As we see another surge of Covid, please remember to take precautions to protect yourself and others in public places by refraining from hugging, wearing your mask, keep spacing distance in our seating. Many among us are frail, so think of how best to serve them in love. *Philippians 2:4,5 "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...."*

The Ladies Bible study will resume on Tuesday, January 11, at 10 am. The focus of our study this time will be the book of Joshua. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and maintain distance seating. New people welcome. Call Judy Dellinger for more information.

Winter brings slippery roads and parking lots. We do our best to clear our parking lot, but we hope you will be very careful. You may want to discharge your passengers at the overhang of the Sanctuary entrance.

Our Music Director, Eric Roth, is preparing some special music for later in January. Don't miss it!

One more thing: If you know of persons who would be good at spending a few hours a week with an elderly person so the caregiver can be free to do errands or just have a break, please let Bev Thompson know. We are aware of several needs.

Attention Deacons: We will meet on Sunday, January 16, following the worship service.

To our visitors: We hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome here among us. Please sign our guest book. Our normal fellowship time after the service has been postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

In Need of Prayer

Teresa Lisowski
 Chet & Scott Doak, Covid
 Renate & Peter Hartig
 Cheryl Stevenson
 Alberta Weaver, home
 Reginia Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
 Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney
 Brenda's sister, Lois, in AZ, 82years, Covid
 Jen Freese, training therapy dog, illness
 Don Rende's brother, Bob, nephew Chris
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Gary, Marion, Dan, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Linda Szczepanek, health, grief
 Dot, friend of Cheri Boone
 Dan, friend of Chet Doak
 Carmen, & Grace injuries, per Gail N.
 Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
 Kelly Vincent, daughter of Bert Schwab
 Al Lindsay, chemotherapy for lung cancer
 Norman, neighbor of Linda S, with cancer
 Metzner family, multiple family deaths

In Need of Prayer

Jen Freese, surgery on 1/19
 Lucy McGuire's brother, Covid & Pneumonia
 Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving
 Judy Carr, foot, plus sister's long term care decisions
 Margaret, Wilsons' friend, brain tumor
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Christopher, son of Ray Boone, heart
 Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months
 Gail Nastwold, for health, tests this week
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Darlene Little, heart health.
 Nancy, friend of Doaks, recurrence of cancer
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger
 Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim & Patty MacKenzie
 Rose, friend of Boones, Covid complications
 First Responders & Border Patrol for safety & wisdom
 Family of Cyndi Taffee's friend, sudden loss of loved one
 Cassandra, friend of Elaine, cancer
 Family of 15 y/o Talon, death of cancer
 Donna Whiting, death of friend, pray for husband, Jeff

Audio Sermons can be heard on the church website: <http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org>

Our Military: Metzner's grandson; and Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq. *William, co-worker of Krystal Murphy, recently deployed overseas.*

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
Giving to general fund 2021: \$215,751
Giving to mortgage 2021: \$18,826
Giving to general fund in Jan: \$5,975

Our sincere sympathy to Linda Szczepanek and family in the unexpected death of her son, William, on January 4.
We have several people in the midst of recent griefs.

Heidelberg Catechism Q 46. What do you mean by saying "He ascended into Heaven?"
A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the death.