



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

MARCH 6, 2022

Gathering Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

† Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2, 4-6)

Leader: Surely God is my salvation: I will trust and not be afraid.

People: The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

People: Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Unison: Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

†Hymn: Love Has Come!

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10 Responsive

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.**

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

**⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.**

**⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.**

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

**⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.**

**The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.**

⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

**But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.**

**Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

Luke 1:26-38 Responsive

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ **The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."**

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ **"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"**

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ **"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.**

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: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Offertory**

† 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

Matthew 11:2-11 Responsive

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Luke 1:39-56 Responsive

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸ **for he has been mindful**

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ **for the Mighty One has done great things for me—**

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ **He has filled the hungry with good things**
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **He has helped his servant Israel,**
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ **to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”**

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

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

Sermon: Humble and Joyful Preparations for the King

Guest Speaker: John Bayon

Our speaker today, John Bayon, has served for many years working with physicians and dentists in this area through the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. His work includes support, encouragement, and evangelism of this unique population. He is the father of seven children, and serves in his local church and other outreach opportunities. We welcome him to our worship service.

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

Responsive Litany (Romans 15:8-10, 12, 13)

Leader: For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

People: “Therefor I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.”

Leader: Again, it says, “Rejoice,, O Gentiles, with his people.”

People: And again, Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.’

Unison: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as your trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope the power of the Holy Spirit.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

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

Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger
 Sean Murphy, for return to work
 Linda Szczepanek, multiple family deaths
 Jen Freese
 Patty Bodnar
 Cheryl Stevenson, recent grief
 Alberta Weaver, home
 Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
 Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney
 Brenda's brother, Bernard
 Don Rende's brother, Bob, health issues
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Gary, Marion, Dan, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Dot, friend of Cheri Boone
 Grace, injuries, per Gail N.
 Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
 Al Lindsay, chemotherapy for lung cancer
 Kelly's friends, John, and Jeff
 Patti MacKenzie's friend, Midge. Healing
 Sue Work, full healing while in FL

Pray for the Persecuted Church

In Need of Prayer

Cindy, daughter of Engebretsons, in hospital
 Bunny Rector, in rehab facility
 Kelly Vincent, daughter of Bert Schwab, recent surgery
 Katalee Deighton, recovering from surgery
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving
 Judy Carr, foot, plus sister's long term care decisions
 Margaret, Wilson's friend, brain tumor
 Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months
 Gail Nastwold, for health, possible surgery
 Darlene Little, heart health
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim & Patty MacKenzie
 Rose, friend of Boone's, COVID complications
 First Responders & Border Patrol for safety & wisdom
 Karen Isles' brother-in-law, Lance, anxiety, loss of job
 Karen Isles, sister-in-law, beginning chemo for cancer
 Linda Johnson's strength to care for family members
 Delilah, young relative of isles family
 Pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones

Pray for Ukraine

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

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

Monthly Need: \$18,333

Giving to General Fund last week: \$3,330

Giving to General Fund February: \$13,670

Giving to Mortgage in February: \$955

Pastor McGuire will be traveling from MS March 9-10. Pray for good weather and his safety on the roads.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q. 54. What do you believe concerning "the Holy Catholic Church"? **A.** I believe that the Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world and to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.