



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 48375
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
248-719-7787

Welcome to Worship

MARCH 14, 2021

Gathering Song: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

† Call to Worship (Psalm 93)

Pastor: The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

People: **Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.**

Pastor: The seas have lifted up, LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

People: **Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea—
the LORD on high is mighty.**

Unison: **Your statutes, LORD, stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days.**

† Hymn: Grace Greater than Our Sin

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Carolyn Sharpe)

Numbers 21:4-9 Responsive

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶**Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.** ⁷**The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.”** So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Responsive

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
³those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.**

¹⁷Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

¹⁸**They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.**

¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.

²⁰He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.**

²²**Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of his works with songs of joy.**

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: I Cannot Tell

Lyrics on page 7

Offertory

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Were You There?

arr: Joel Raney

† 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

(Reader: Carolyn Sharpe)

John 3:14-21 Responsive

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Ephesians 2:1-10 Responsive

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

³ **All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.**

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶ **And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: The Riches of God's Lavish Grace

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Jesus, Lover of My Soul

† Responsive Litany (Romans 8:31-34)

Pastor: What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

People: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for all —how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Pastor: Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Unison: Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer

Be sure to take a look at page 8 for information about coming events.

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music



Spring is coming!
And with it are new opportunities at CPC.

Tenebrae Service

We plan to have a Maundy Thursday Service, our first since 2019. The Tenebrae Service is always a meaningful time of reflection on Christ's suffering as He approached the Cross. Come, if you can, on Thursday, April 1, at 6:00 pm EDT. We will still need to observe the Covid precautions of masks and distance seating.

Palm Sunday

You might want to know that Palm Sunday, March 28th, is also the fifth anniversary of our first service in this church building. What a blessing this place to worship has been.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

What a joyous celebration of our Lord's Resurrection!

Typically we use Easter Lilies to decorate the front of the sanctuary. We have ordered a limited number of plants from the florist. If you are interested in purchasing a lily, the order forms will be available for the next two weeks. It is helpful if you are prepared to use cash (\$10). Cheri Boone will receive your order.

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 the guest book in the narthex and allow us to greet you. Our normal fellowship time after the service has been postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

In Need of Prayer

Sam Hutson, Covid 19
Bert Schwab
Bill Rector
Brenda Cook, health/medication adjustment
Cindy Taaffee
Jen Freese, health, grief, training of new therapy dog
Dennis & Ellen Dorman
Kent's sister, Lori
George Donoian and family
Gail Nastwold, ill
John Dellinger's sister, Nancy
Don Rende's brother, Bob
David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
Mark, cousin of Elaine Clay, pain
Jim, Gary, Marion, friends of Szczepaneks
Linda Szczepanek
Cody, grandson of Carolyn Krueger

Janet Evans
Yvonne Ray, assisted living
Alberta Weaver for stability
Ken, Bev's son-in-law, severe back pain
Anastasia, for continuing pregnancy
Alanna, daughter of Bruce Terras's manager
Marie Johnson, Linda & Ray Johnson's daughter
Keely & Josh, daughter/son-in-law of Linda Johnson
Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs
Nicki, Donna's neighbor, new cancer
Brenda's sister, Joyce, surgery 2.25.21
Kelly Rende's co-worker, new cancer
Grieving families with recent loss of loved ones: Kelly Rende, Linda Szczepanek, Sam Hutson, Dormans
April's friend Kristen, Kristen's mom with brain cancer---for comfort, salvation
Baby Jase, mom Lindsay, friends of Linda Johnson
Cindy Bemis (Engebretsons'daughter

Healthcare Workers: Ray Johnson, Angie O'Dell, Karen Isles, Krystal Murphy, Claudine Sordyl—for protection from Covid; strength for the long hours, and opportunities for sharing Christ.

Please also pray for people who are struggling over mental health issues, particularly brought on by the stresses of Covid-19, unemployment, etc.

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

Our Military; Metzners' grandson Bryan; and relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq.

Pray for God's protection of girls/women and intervention to stop the human sex trafficking in our state.

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
Giving to general fund last week: \$5,131.
Giving to general fund in March: \$5,131
Giving to mortgage in February: \$150

Heidelberg Catechism: Q 2. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.



I Cannot Tell (Tune: LondonDerry Air, aka O Danny Boy)

I cannot tell why He, the King of Heaven, should leave the peace of all eternity,
Why God Himself should lay aside His splendor to leave the Father's side and come to me.
But this I know: our silence filled with singing, and all our darkness fled from heaven's light
When Christ the Lord, so human, yet so holy, in love was born a child for me that holy night.

I cannot tell why He, the joy of Heaven, should give Himself to suffer for my sin,
Why Holy God should love me in my shamefulness, why He should die to draw my soul to Him.
But this I know: that Christ the Lord is risen, and praise His name, He's risen now in me!
Because He lives, I'll rise to life eternal! He took my guilty heart, and I'm forever free!

I cannot tell when He will rule the nations, how He will claim His loved ones as His own.
And who can tell the holy jubilation when all His children gather 'round His throne.
But this I know: all flesh will see his glory, and skies will burst as all creation sings.
The Son will rise on one eternal morning when Christ, the Savior of the world is Lord and King!