



**CHRIST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road  
Novi MI 48375  
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire  
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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**March 26, 2023**

**Gathering Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies**

**† Call to Worship (from Psalm 130)**

**Pastor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; Lord hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

**People:** If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, LORD, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can with reverence, serve you.

**Pastor:** I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

**Unison:** Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

**† Hymn: A Mighty Fortress**

**† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

## First Scripture Readings

### John 3:13-21 Responsive

<sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

**<sup>16</sup>For 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.**

<sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

**<sup>18</sup>Whoever 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.**

<sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

**<sup>21</sup>But 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.**

### John 6:35-40 Responsive

<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

**<sup>37</sup>All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.**

<sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

**<sup>40</sup>For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”**

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: May the Mind of Christ My Savior

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Morning Prayer

by Tchaikovsky

Yuta Sugano, Musician

### † 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

#### Romans 3:19-31 Responsive

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

**<sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.**

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

**There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

<sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

**<sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.**

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith.

**<sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. <sup>29</sup>Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too?**

Yes, of Gentiles too, <sup>30</sup>since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. <sup>31</sup>Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

### **Luke 16:19-31 Responsive**

<sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup> **“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.**

<sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

<sup>25</sup> **“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’**

<sup>27</sup> “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup> **“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’**

<sup>30</sup> “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

<sup>31</sup> **“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon: The Dark Side of the Life to Come**

Third in a Series: What is the Biblical View of Life After Death?

Dr. James N. McGuire

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**† Responsive Litany (from Colossians 1)**

Pastor: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. All things have been created through him and for him.

**People: He is before all things and in him all things hold together.**

Pastor: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**People: Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.**

Pastor: But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

**Unison: if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.**

**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and prayers**

**Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor**

## SEED SOWING NEWS

March 2023

Vol. 28 Issue 1

"While he was in one of the cities there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him saying, "I will, be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him." Luke 5:12-14

Dear Friends, During these 40 days of lent, I pray you and your loved ones are encouraged and at peace in the presence of our risen Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. We remember and celebrate Christ's life, death, resurrection and his miracles, confirming his Messiahship, that he truly is, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

May the sweet fragrance of Christ's indwelling Holy Spirit increase within us; filling and overflowing our lives. May we fervently ask him to increase the outpouring of his Holy Spirit upon all peoples; bringing them to a profound conviction of their sin and giving countless multitudes, his greatest gifts of faith, repentance and eternal life.

## LOCAL NEWS

Here in Amman, we are also counting down to the beginning of the month of Ramadan, now about ten days away, and asking the Lord to open the eyes of faith of many, to see who Christ truly is, "the Savior of the World"; that he can be trusted to forgive the sins of anyone, who would say, "I believe Jesus is Lord. That he died for me and rose again, victorious over my sin and death."

Thank you so much for remembering our colleague and beloved sister Maram, who was operated on last month for the removal of four brain tumors and is in her first round of chemo. She has served as the pharmacist for many years in our church's Hope Clinic. Pray for her family and her medical care givers, that they would be strengthened in the knowledge of who Christ is and if they as yet have not put their trust in him, let them be blessed, seeing Maram's peaceful sustaining faith, and place their lives into his almighty hands.

Personally, I am very much anticipating visiting family and friends in the US beginning around the end of May and would appreciate your prayers for the Lord's provision of housing, transportation and safety along the way.

I'm praying that the hearts of those I'm blessed to meet along the way, and my heart, would be mutually encouraged, as we reflect upon all the Lord has accomplished, and by faith, will complete in the days ahead.

May God's blessing be upon us as we celebrate Jesus Christ the Lord, "HE IS RISEN".

Sincerely, Tim North

EPC World Outreach  
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Ste. 510  
Orlando, FL 32822

## ANNOUNCEMENT

It still feels like winter, but **Easter** is just 3 weeks away. In preparation for Easter Sunday, April 9, we will again decorate the sanctuary with lovely lilies. Call the office if you wish to purchase a lily. \$10 each.

Our **Maundy Thursday service** will be held on, Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 6 p.m. This is always a meaningful service you won't want to miss.

### **Road Work on Novi Road**

After removing a lot of trees, the Road Commission of Oakland County is now beginning the serious work toward replacing Novi Road from 10 Mile Road to just beyond 9 Mile Road. We expect to have access to the church parking lot. You may wish to consider leaving home a little earlier because of the road work.

### **Working Toward a New Church Directory**

You may have noticed that our church directory is out-of-date. Plans are underway to replace it. Be watching over the next few weeks for opportunities to update or add your photo, as well as to update your information for the directory/database.

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1ff

**In Need of Prayer**

Janet Young, hospice, continued peace  
 Brenda's brother, Bernard, foot damage  
 Brenda for a new cardiologist  
 Bunny Rector, transition new residence  
 Jennifer's dad, for cancer care  
 Ed Steele, for mobility, back pain  
 Pat Grad's, sister, Priscilla, health  
 Jane Kirkpatrick, encouragement  
 Darlene Little, heart and dialysis  
 Ron's brother, HIV, needs housing  
 Maureen, dear friend of Lisa Lochrie  
 Reagan, child with seizures  
 Kay, hospice, for peace, pain control  
 Scott, son of Metzners, serious surgery  
 Ralph Klein, extensive knee surgery

**For those who grieve:**

Donna Whiting, sister  
 Bunny Rector, husband  
 Ellen Dorman, husband  
 Kelly Rende, wife  
 Sam Hutson, wife  
 Linda Szczepanek, multiple losses  
 Engebretsons, daughter, brother  
 Hartigs, son  
 Electrica Woods, sister  
 Linda Davis, 4 family members in 2 yrs.  
 Reginia Higgs, mother  
 Lucy McGuire, niece, Joanna  
 Teresa Lisowski, Aunt Cookie

**In Need of Prayer**

Paul McGuire, son of Jimmy and Lucy, improving in hospital  
 Rosie, daughter of Linda Szczepanek, in ICU  
 Ray Boone, pray for strength, cancer gone  
 Benita Puzzuoli, chemo helping  
 Linda & Ray Johnson's son Ryan, for health  
 Felicia, breast cancer, relative of Sean Murphy  
 Sean's family in death of Martin  
 Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell cancer  
 Emily, friend of Isles family, employment  
 Don Rende's brother, Bob, failing health  
 Sean's aunt & uncle, Sonja/Ronnie, heavy caregiving  
 Rob, friend of Jen Freese, in nursing home  
 Rachel Hopson, deliverance from worldly ways (Sean)  
 Debbie, Pam Paglino's friend, ovarian cancer returned  
 Donna Whiting's sister's family in grief  
 Judy Vershave and family in Florida  
 Cindi Taaffee's godson, Michael, for employment  
 Sheila, Isles family, burns, family care  
 Lance, brother-in-law of Isles, liver failure  
 Sue Isles, sister-in-law of Ron/Karen, on chemo  
 Parents concerns for unsaved children  
 Jalene Rende, MS flareup, husband Kirk caring for her  
 Judy Vershave, recurrent cancer, family needs  
 Lee Paglino, young mom, breast cancer  
 Chuck, brother-in-law of Lisa, family death, despondent  
 Karen Isles, injured hip

General Fund giving last week:  
 \$1,042  
 Total giving in March: \$13,302

Our congregation is happy to pray for your prayer requests. Please let Bev know when prayers are answered and the name can be removed. Thank you.

**Heidelberg Catechism Q. 99.** What is God's will for us in the third commandment? **A.** That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders. In a word, it requires that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe, so that we may properly confess him, pray to him, and praise him in everything we do and say.