



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

APRIL 18, 2021

Gathering Song: I Danced in the Morning

† Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

Pastor: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

People: **Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Unison: **For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues for all generations.**

† Hymn: Lift Up, Lift Up Your Voices Now

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Bruce Terras)

Acts 3:12-19 Responsive

¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”

¹³**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.**

¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

¹⁶**By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.**

¹⁷“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.**

Psalm 4 Responsive

¹Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**How long will you people turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?**

³Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴**Tremble and do not sin;
when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent.**

⁵Offer the sacrifices of the righteous
and trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?”
Let the light of your face shine on us.**

⁷Fill my heart with joy
when their grain and new wine abound.

⁸**In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety.**

Luke 24:25-52 Responsive

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

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

Sermon: Peace with God Through Jesus Christ

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: I Know Whom I Have Believed

† Responsive Litany (Romans 5:1-5)

Pastor: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Pastor: And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

People: Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope.

Unison: And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

Music Director: Dr. Eric Roth

Dear church family and friends,

On May 8th I will celebrate the milestone birthday of becoming 80 years old. To help me celebrate, I am inviting you, *in lieu of birthday cards or gifts*, to join me in contributing to West Side Baby, a Seattle charity that helps families with diapers, clothing, car seats and other needs, and I will DOUBLE MATCH all contributions.

Cards these days easily run \$5.00. With my double match, West Side Baby will get \$15.00. And of course, you can give whatever you'd like. Shortly after my birth date passes, West Side Baby will send me the list of names of contributors (but not the amounts), and I, with deep satisfaction, will write the check for my contribution.

I encourage you to visit the website, <https://westsidebaby.org>. If you are motivated to contribute, click the <donate> button at the top of the website, and in the "comments" box put in "Eric Roth Birthday." I assure you that this is a well-run and well-respected organization; the executive director is my daughter-in-law!

I am grateful for all of my church family and friends, and I look forward to future milestone birthdays!

Eric





Dear Prayer Team,

Greetings at this wonderful time of year. We pray that the fullness of our salvation, the promise of the resurrection and the power of the indwelling Spirit of God is your joy today and every day.

In March we had very special Zoom calls with both the Central Asia Care for Leaders group and with the annual Central Asia Consultation (CAC). The CAC zoom call was encouraging as we heard reports from each country presented by cherished friends and leaders. It was the best of virtual possibilities but we missed the face-to-face meetings, the sharing of meals and the awesome Russian-English worship times.

Here are two of the encouraging reports from that call:

Although nine countries reported difficult economic situations and Covid related deaths of church members, family or friends, they also praised the Lord for the expanded outreach they accomplished through virtual services and small group meetings and new opportunities for humanitarian involvement within their communities. Several churches received commendations from their local or national governments! Many who would have never entered a church building received salvation through virtual home meetings

A pastor from Turkmenistan told us that no pastors had died due to Covid in his country. This is an amazing report of God's protection, especially with such poor medical care.

Continued on page 8

The Care for Leaders group are creating specific and diverse methods to minister to pastors and leaders who are discouraged and fatigued. Some are involved in a training which focuses on healing from early abuse as well as spiritual encouragement and theological truth. Others are developing centers for retreat and healing along with coaching. Still others are organizing retreats for pastors and their families, as well as regular local gatherings for sharing and fellowship. We rejoice to see how God is guiding each person and each couple to come alongside the leaders of God's Church to give them much needed time and attention to their very challenging lives. This is happening in some part because you have prayed and have given to our Jars of Clay account at Barnabas which we have used to send several pastors and families to get a rest, a very new concept in this area of the world. God used their experiences among other factors to launch this movement.

Personally we are well having had Covid at separate times and are grateful that there were no complications or residual effects. Carol had her four year echocardiogram in March and was again pleased to hear that her heart is "perfect".

Thank you for your prayers for the church in Central Asia and for us as we continue to mentor, encourage, pray with them and stay available to listen to their needs and victories.

May you sense God's love in fresh ways as you focus on His amazing salvation this Easter weekend.

David and Carol

PS: We have copies of the annual Muslim World Prayer Guide 30 Days of Prayer. For a hard copy contact us. You can download a digital copy at www.WorldChristian.com. The prayer guide is to help us pray for the Muslim world during the Islamic month of Ramadan which is April 13- May 12 this year.

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

Brenda Cook, health, esp. kidney
 Cindy Taaffee
 Jen Freese, grief, training of therapy dog
 Dennis (Ellen) Dorman, cancer
 Kent's sister, Lori
 George Donoian, hospitalized
 John Dellinger's sister, Nancy
 Don Rende's brother, Bob
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Mark, Elaine's cousin, cardiac rehab
 Gary, Marion, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Ray Boone's friend, Marvin, set-back
 Dan, friend of Doaks, fall/rehab
 Alberta Weaver, for stability
 Reginia Higgs, strength caring for Alberta
 Justin Conn, kidney transplant recovery
 Linda Szczepanek
 Jen's mom, foot fracture
 Sara, daughter of Linda Johnson, Covid
 Belinda Williams, discerning God's will
 Charlie Palumbo (Lori) cancer

In Need of Prayer

Karen Deighton, knee surgery 4/9
 Charlie Wilson
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Gail Nastwold's family for full recovery from Covid
 Anastasia, high risk pregnancy, 29 weeks
 Alanna, auto accident, more surgeries & rehab
 Marie Johnson, Linda & Ray's daughter
 Keely & Josh (USN), daughter/son-in-law of Linda Johnson
 Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs
 Nicki, Donna's neighbor, new cancer
 Kelly Rende's co-worker, Kirk, cancer treatment
 Grieving families with recent losses of loved ones:
 Kelly Rende, Linda Szczepanek, Sam Hutson, Dormans
 Ray Johnson, Karen Isles, Angie O'Dell, Krystal Murphy, Claudine Sordyl, and other healthcare workers to keep well
 Baby Jase, Mom Lindsey, friends of Linda Johnson
 Danny, brother-in-law of Donna Whiting, pain, leg ulcers
 Bruce's co-worker, Tony, bladder cancer
 Justin Eizak, grandson of Linda Szczepanek, knee injury/tests
 Rita, friend of Bruce Terras, chemotherapy
 Joni, Philip, Christian workers in Myanmar, protection

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

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
 Giving to general fund last week: \$2,360
 Giving to general fund in April: \$8,826
 Giving to mortgage in April: \$751.37

Our Military: Metzners' grandson; and Bryan, 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.

Pray for those of our church who worship on-line, that they will sense the love and care we have for each other.

Heidelberg Catechism: : Q 8. But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil? **A.** Yes, unless we are born again, by the Spirit of God.