



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WE WELCOME YOU IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

JULY 10, 2022

Gathering Song: Come, Christians, Join to Sing

† Call to Worship (from Psalm 146)

Pastor: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

People: I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Pastor: Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings who cannot save.

People: He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever.

Unison: The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

†Hymn: Praise the Savior, You Who Know Him

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings
Daniel 6:10-24 Responsive

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹³Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed.

¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴**At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.**

Psalm 39 Responsive

¹ I said, "I will watch my ways
and keep my tongue from sin;
I will put a muzzle on my mouth
while in the presence of the wicked."

²**So I remained utterly silent,
not even saying anything good.**

But my anguish increased;

³**my heart grew hot within me.**

**While I meditated, the fire burned;
then I spoke with my tongue:**

⁴"Show me, LORD, my life's end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.

⁵You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.

Everyone is but a breath,
even those who seem secure.

⁶**"Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom;
in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth
without knowing whose it will finally be.**

⁷"But now, Lord, what do I look for?
My hope is in you.

⁸**Save me from all my transgressions;
do not make me the scorn of fools.**

⁹**I was silent; I would not open my mouth,
for you are the one who has done this.**

¹⁰Remove your scourge from me;
I am overcome by the blow of your hand.
¹¹When you rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin,
you consume their wealth like a moth—
surely everyone is but a breath.

¹²**“Hear my prayer, LORD,
listen to my cry for help;
do not be deaf to my weeping.
I dwell with you as a foreigner,
a stranger, as all my ancestors were.
¹³Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again
before I depart and am no more.”**

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: Jesus, I am Resting, Resting

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Pianist: Donna Whiting

† 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

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³ They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵ All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Hebrews 11:32-40 Responsive

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground:

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³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

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

Sermon: The Highs and Lows of Faith

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Through the Love of God My Savior

† Responsive Litany (1 Peter 1:3-6)

Pastor: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Pastor: and into an inheritance which can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

People: who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Unison: In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, 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 in the narthex. We invite you to join us for light refreshments after worship in Fellowship Hall, turning left and through the double doors.

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

In Need of Prayer

Karen Isles, recovery from surgery
 Janet Young, in rehab after falls
 Cheri Boone's friend Dot, fall injuries
 Linda Szczepanek, multiple deaths in family
 Felicia, new diagnosis breast cancer
 Relative of Sean Murphy
 Jen Freese, pain, possible surgery
 Alberta Weaver, home
 Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
 Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney poor
 Brenda's brother, Bernard, kidney failing
 Brenda's sister, Joyce, eye cancer
 Don Rende's brother, Bob, poor health
 Dan, friend of L.Szczepanek
 Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
 Al Lindsay, chemotherapy for lung cancer
 Boone's friend caring for invalid, age 102
 Son of Jim and Patty MacKenzie
 Senie's sister-in-law, Blodwynn, grief
 Nancy Hill

In Need of Prayer

Donna Whiting's sister, Judy, in AL
 Ray Boone
 Marlene, relative of Gail Nastwold, eye cancer
 Chris, stage 4 cancer, neighbor of Linda Szczpanek
 Lauren, niece of Ron Lisowski
 Alanna, recovering from surgery for auto injuries
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving
 Margaret, Wilsons' friend, brain tumor
 Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months
 Darlene Little, heart health
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Karen Isles, sister-in-law, completing chemo for cancer
 Delilah, young relative of Isles family
 Linda Johnson's mother, advanced dementia
 Salvation for Edward, Laura, Nick
 Ken, Bev's son-in-law, Parkinson's, difficulty walking
 Peter & Renate Hartig in their grief
 Electrica Woods in her continued grief
 Emily, friend of Isles, salvation; employment
 Family of Chet Doak's friend, recent death of his friend

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.

Monthly budget need: \$18,333
 Giving in June: \$16,106
 Giving in July to date: \$2,275
 Mortgage paid off in June! Praise God!

Our deepest sympathy to Senie Engebretson in the death of her brother, William.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q. 70, Part 2. To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed me and set me apart to be a member of Christ so that more and more I become dead to sin and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.