



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road

Novi MI 48375

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

248-719-7787

# Welcome to Worship

JULY 26, 2020

† **Gathering Hymn: I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord**

† **Call to Worship** (from Psalm 146 ESV)

Pastor: Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing to my God while I have my being.

**People: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them,**

Pastor: who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food for the hungry.

**People: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

**Unison: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

† **Hymn: Lord of the Universe**

## † Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

**First Scripture Readings** (Reader:  
Teresa Lisowski)

### **Genesis 29:15-28 Responsive**

<sup>15</sup> Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

<sup>16</sup> **Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.** <sup>17</sup> Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. <sup>18</sup> **Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."**

<sup>19</sup> Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

<sup>21</sup> **Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."**

<sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

<sup>25</sup> **When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"**

<sup>26</sup> Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. <sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

<sup>28</sup> **And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.**

**Psalm 119:129-136 Responsive**

129 Your statutes are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them.

130 **The unfolding of your words gives  
light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

131 I open my mouth and pant, longing  
for your commands.

132 **Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
as you always do to those who love your  
name.**

133 Direct my footsteps according to  
your word; let no sin rule over me.

134 **Redeem me from human  
oppression, that I may obey your precepts.**

135 Make your face shine on your servant  
and teach me your decrees.

136 **Streams of tears flow from my eyes,  
for your law is not obeyed.**

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: O Word of God Incarnate**

**Offertory**                      **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**                      **arr:**  
   **Heaven's Roll Call (Medley)**  
   **Lyndell Leatherman Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**† 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: Ron Lisowski)

**Romans 8:26-39 Responsive**

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

**27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.**

**28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

**31** What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

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

**34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. 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.**

**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

**37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

#### **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Responsive**

**31** He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. **32** Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

**33** He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup> **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.**

<sup>47</sup> “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

<sup>49</sup> **This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

<sup>52</sup> **He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.**

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

**Sermon: The Wonderful Rule of Christ** Dr.  
James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

**† Responsive Litany (Philippians 2:8-10, Revelation 5:13b)**

Pastor: And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**People: Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the Name that is above every name,**

Pastor: so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**People: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Unison: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever." Amen.**

**†Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements and Prayers**

**Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire**

**Music Director: Dr. Eric Roth**

**To our visitors: We hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you are blessed to share this time with us. We would be happy to hear from you.**

**In Need of Prayer**

Cindy Bemis, Engebretson's daughter, surgery 7/23  
 Kelly, Pat Grad's daughter Priscilla  
 Smith, Pat's sister  
 George Donoian and family  
 Carolyn Krueger's son, Chuck  
 Yvonne Ray, assisted living  
 Pat Grad's grandson, Luke age 12  
 Gail Nastwold  
 Jen Freese and family  
 Jen's 100 y/o friend, Adele  
 Brett Johnson, Nancy's son  
 Lyndsay, daughter of the Sharpes  
 Don Rende's brother, Bob  
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee  
 Bruce, friend of the Clay family  
 Jim, Gary, Marion, friends of Szczepaneks  
 Linda Szczepanek  
 Cody, grandson of Carolyn Krueger  
 Cheri Boone's sister's family  
 Bruce Hartley, employment  
 Colleen, friend of Kelly Rende

Dr. Belinda Williams, beginning her internship in NY

**In Need of Prayer**

Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs  
 Gloria, sister of Bev Thompson  
 Alberta Weaver, at home  
 Reginia Higgs  
 Avery, niece of Teresa Lisowski  
 Carol, Bev Thompson's cousin  
 Tracy, friend of Bunny Rector  
 Andrew, friend of Bodnars, Guillain-Barré syndrome  
 Randy, friend of Bodnars  
 Tim, cancer, nephew of Janet Young  
 Lauren, niece of Ron Lisowski  
 Kelly Rende's friend Rich, family care burden  
 Jim Paglino  
 Sam Hutson, grief  
 Carolyn Schmierer, assisted living  
 Ella, age 10, diabetes. friend of Metzners  
 Unbelieving children in our families

*Karen Isles, Ray Johnson, Krystal Murphy, Angie O'Dell, Claudine Sordyl, Manuel & Astrid Valdivieso, and all healthcare and first responders*

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

**Our Military:** Justin, deployed to Qatar; Metzners' grandson; 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.*

**Heidelberg Catechism: Q 104.** What is God's will for us in the fourth commandment? **A.** Two things: First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin already in this life the eternal Sabbath.





The **new church directories** were delivered just about the time the lockdown began. They will be distributed as soon as we can meet together in person. You may instead pick yours up at the church. Call Bev for new office hours. 734-664-2033.

Included with our directory is the use of an online directory for your PC and/or smart phone. If you did not receive your personal code and instructions, or if you need assistance, please call Bev Thompson @ 734 664-2033.

#### **Pray for Missions**

- The church in China is under increasing stress and persecution, especially pastors
- Central African and South American countries are experiencing severe pandemic effects w/limited resources.
- CDC (Central Detroit Christian) ministry to this neighborhood has been deeply limited, yet the needs have increased. Unemployment means no ability to pay rent, feed their children, etc. Pray for wisdom and resources for Lisa Johananen and her team.
- Pray for our missionaries: the Fogelbachs, Tim North, Marcus Liew, Enrique Cepeda