



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 12, 2023

Gathering Song: The Solid Rock

† Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Pastor: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

**People: The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.**

Pastor: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say:

**People: Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done and proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Pastor: Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

**Unison: Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**

† Hymn: How Firm a Foundation

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

## First Scripture Readings

### Psalm 64 Responsive

<sup>1</sup>Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint;  
protect my life from the threat of the enemy.

<sup>2</sup>Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,  
from the plots of evildoers.

<sup>3</sup>**They sharpen their tongues like swords  
and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.**

<sup>4</sup>**They shoot from ambush at the innocent;  
they shoot suddenly, without fear.**

<sup>5</sup>They encourage each other in evil plans,  
they talk about hiding their snares;  
they say, "Who will see it?"

<sup>6</sup>They plot injustice and say,  
"We have devised a perfect plan!"  
Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.

<sup>7</sup>**But God will shoot them with his arrows;  
they will suddenly be struck down.**

<sup>8</sup>**He will turn their own tongues against them  
and bring them to ruin;  
all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.**

<sup>9</sup>All people will fear;  
they will proclaim the works of God  
and ponder what he has done.

<sup>10</sup>**The righteous will rejoice in the LORD  
and take refuge in him;  
all the upright in heart will glory in him!**

### Ephesians 6:10-18 Responsive

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

<sup>12</sup>**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

<sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

<sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

**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: Blessed Assurance

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory:** *You are Crowned with Many Crowns*

(J. Sellers/arr. Mark Hayes)

Yuta Sugano, Pianist

### † 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 23:12-22 Responsive

<sup>12</sup>The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup>More than forty men were involved in this plot.

**<sup>14</sup> They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here.”**

<sup>16</sup> But when the son of Paul’s sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

**<sup>17</sup> Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him.” <sup>18</sup> So he took him to the commander.**

The centurion said, “Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you.”

**<sup>19</sup> The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, “What is it you want to tell me?”**

<sup>20</sup> He said: “Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. <sup>21</sup> Don’t give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request.”

**<sup>22</sup> The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.”**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 Responsive**

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

**<sup>14</sup> For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews <sup>15</sup> who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out.**

They displease God and are hostile to everyone <sup>16</sup> in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

**<sup>17</sup> But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.**

<sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

<sup>3</sup>So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens.<sup>2</sup>We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, <sup>3</sup>so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them.

<sup>4</sup> In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. <sup>5</sup>For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

**This is the Word of the Lord**

Thanks be to God

**Sermon: Hindrances to the Gospel of Salvation**

Dr. James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: Be Still My Soul**

**† Responsive Litany (Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV)**

**Pastor:** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

**People:** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**Pastor:** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness,

**People:** against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Unison:** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to wit stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**

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

**Musician: Yuta Sugano**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**In Need of Prayer**

Rosie, Linda's daughter, grieving  
Brenda, for good health  
Ed, for mobility, back pain  
Nancy, health  
Judy C, full healing of her leg  
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa  
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis  
Raven, child with seizures  
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill  
Brenda's nephew and his friends for  
encouragement and better jobs.  
College students, for continuing faith  
Jennet family, illness and deaths  
Linda S, breathing concerns  
Janet Evans, confusion (in AZ)  
Alicia, niece of Carolyn, cancer  
Marie, employment and comfort  
Bodnar grandson, arm fractures  
Lochrie children—illness  
Jen: healing ankle, father's chemo

**In Need of Prayer**

Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis  
Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancer  
Glad, for restored strength  
Benita, improved blood counts and strength  
Jalene, MS flare-up and heart attack, husband caring for her  
Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer  
Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving  
Debbie, Pam's friend, improved, more chemo  
Judy V. and family in Florida  
Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family  
Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family  
Ron, age 34, heart failure, needs heart transplant  
Sarah, for strength to carry her load  
Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer  
Family of Rusty, dear friend of Ron I, sudden death  
Willy, 76, needs Jesus  
Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer.  
Donna's family, 10 year old Gage, and Dan, recent heart  
surgery.

Pray for Enrique's Family as they grieve and arrange for him to  
be transported home from South Korea.

General Fund giving in Oct: \$19,544  
Giving to date in November: \$5,296

Thank you for your faithful giving.

As the Middle Eastern war continues, it has spilled over  
to Lebanon. Please pray for Robbie and Joyce who are  
involved in children and family work, feeding children  
and providing care so parents can work.

**Heidelberg Catechism Q. 129.** What does the little word "Amen" express? **A.** Amen means,  
This is sure to be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer, than that I really desire  
what I pray for.

### **Worship Fellowship Time**

Don't rush out after the service. Stay awhile and get to know your church friends over a cup of coffee or tea, and a snack.

### **Thanksgiving Meal—November 19, 2023**

Keeping our tradition, we will celebrate Thanksgiving together following our worship together on November 19. It will be catered, and as always, delicious. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to indicate your plan to attend. Please sign up. Deadline is today.

### **Prayer Cards**

Don't forget to pick up a bright yellow card in the Narthex. Then pray often the verse on the front for the person whose name is on the back.

### **Ladies' Bible Study**

The Ladies' Bible study continues to meet every Tuesday at 10 am at the church. The current study is the book of Second Corinthians. For more information, you may speak to Judy Dellinger.