



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
Dr. James N. McGuire

## Welcome to Worship

DECEMBER 12, 2021  
The Third Sunday of Advent

### Gathering Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#### † Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2,4-6)

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: Give thanks to the Lord; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

**People: 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: Love Has Come!

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

#### Lighting the Third Advent Candle

The Shepherd's Candle  
Kent & Benita Puzzuoli

#### † Standing as you are able

#### First Scripture Readings

#### Isaiah 35:1-10 Responsive

<sup>1</sup> The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup>it will burst into bloom:  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.**

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup>say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup>**Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.**

<sup>6</sup>**Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.**

Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup>**And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.**

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.

**But only the redeemed will walk there,  
<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

#### **Luke 1: 26-38 Responsive**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>**The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”**

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>**“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”**

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup>**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.**

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: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Offertory

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings  
See, Amid the Winter's Snow

arr: Brian Buda

† 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

Matthew 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

<sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Luke 1:39-56 Responsive

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

<sup>56</sup>**Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.**

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

**Sermon: Humble & Joyful Preparations for the King**  
John Bayon, Guest Speaker

**Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night**

**Responsive Litany (Romans 15:8-10,12,13)**

Leader: For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

**People: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.”**

Leader: Again, it says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

**People: And again, Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.”**

**Unison: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

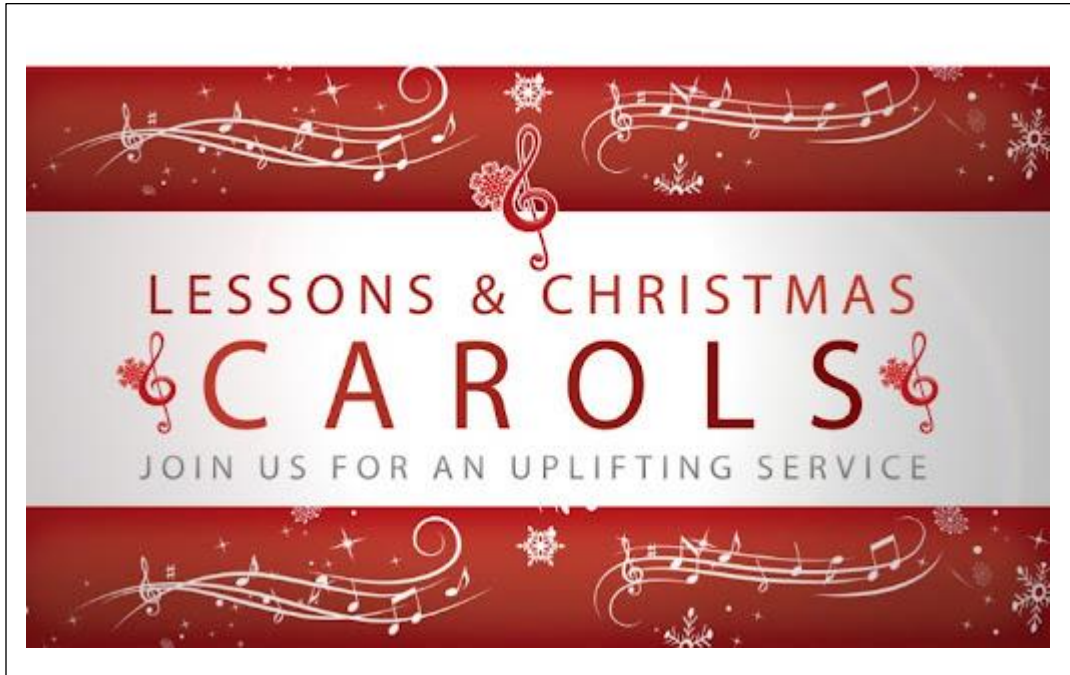
**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**

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

**Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music**

Today is the final day to order poinsettias for the Sanctuary. Cost is \$10. See Donna Whiting or call the office.



Christmas Eve at 4 pm

Ladies Bible study will resume on January 4, 2022 at 10:00, with the study of Joshua. If you would like to participate, call Elaine Clay or Judy Dellinger.

**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**

<p><b>In Need of Prayer</b>          Cheri Boone, knee replacement, 12/6          Sue Work          Cheryl Stevenson          Alberta Weaver, home          Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta          Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney          Jen Freese, training dog, bipolar study          Don Rende's brother, Bob, nephew Chris          David, friend of Cindy Taaffee          Gary, Marion, Dan, friends of L.Szczepanek          Linda Szczepanek, health, grief          Dot, friend of Cheri Boone          Carmen, &amp; Grace injuries, per Gail N.          Ed Steele for mobility, back pain          Kelly Vincent, daughter of Bert Schwab          The Metzner Family, many stressors, and multiple Covid illnesses          Al Lindsay, chemotherapy for lung cancer          Norman, neighbor of Linda S, with cancer          Kelly's friends, Tammy &amp; Kevin, grieving          Community of Oxford, MI for healing</p>	<p><b>In Need of Prayer</b>          Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving          Tim, brother of Lucy McGuire, Covid/pneumonia          Alanna, friend of Bruce Terras, delicate surgery 12/7          Judy Carr, foot, plus sister's long term care decisions          Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer          Christopher, son of Ray Boone, heart          Janet Evans, grieving          Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months          Katalee Deighton, lymphoma          Darlene Little, heart health.          Nancy, sister of John Dellinger          Nancy, friend of Doaks, recurrence of cancer          John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer          Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger          Children and teachers in schools, anxiety &amp; fears          Rose, friend of Boones, Covid complications          First Responders &amp; Border Patrol for safety &amp; wisdom          Family of Cyndi Taffee's friend, sudden loss of loved one          Cassandra, friend of Elaine, cancer          Family of 15 y/o Talon, death of cancer          Pastor Jimmy's journey home on the 15th and 16th</p>
<p><b>Audio Sermons</b> can be heard on the church website: <a href="http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org">http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>Our sympathy to the Metzner family on the unexpected death this past week of Carol's sister.</b></p>
<p><b>Monthly need: \$17,083.00</b>  <b>Giving to general fund last week: \$5,019</b>  <b>Giving to general fund in Dec: \$5,019</b>  <b>Giving to mortgage in Dec: \$3,150</b></p>	<p><b>Our Military:</b> Metzner's grandson; and Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq. <i>William, co-worker of Krystal Murphy, recently deployed overseas.</i></p>

**Heidelberg Catechism Q 43.** What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross? **A.** Through Christ's death our old selves were crucified, put to death and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to him.