



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD

DECEMBER 18, 2022

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering Song: Away in a Manger

† Call to Worship (Psalm 103:1-4, 8)

Pastor: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

Pastor: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

People: who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

Unison: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

† Hymn: Joy to the World (page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

The Angels' Candle

Charlie & Jackie Wilson

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Judy Carr)

Isaiah 7: 10-16 Responsive

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²**But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”**

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?

¹⁴**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.** ¹⁵**He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,** ¹⁶**for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Responsive

¹Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth ²before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might;
come and save us.

³**Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

⁴How long, LORD God Almighty,
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

⁶You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.

⁷**Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

¹⁷Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

¹⁸Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.

**¹⁹Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

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: Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

**Hark, The Herald Angels Sing Arr. by Spencer Parsons
Pianist Linda Johnson**

† 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: (Judy Carr)

Romans 1:1-7 Responsive

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,

⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25 Responsive

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰**But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”**

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.**

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: The Evidence of the Lavish Love of God **Dr. James N. McGuire**

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: How Great Our Joy!

Responsive Litany (from Ephesians 5)

Pastor: Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

People: **For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light and find out what pleases the Lord.**

Pastor: Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit.

Unison: **Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Announcements of Interest

Angel Tree, A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

We are still in need of a few more giving people to select one or more children for a gift given in the name of the incarcerated parent.

Below is the link to get to the Angel Tree children for 2022. For a “live” link, go to the church website and click on it there. When it opens up you will get a **welcome to virtual Angel Tree**. The 2022 link to all virtual children in United States is:

<https://vat.angeltreetool.org/60b37164-3824-4656-b1da-bf774cdf352e/children>

Since we cannot put a live link in a bulletin, Alternatively you may copy the link and put it in your browser. It should take you where you need to go. Then you will see 2 small boxes pop up. Click the box on **left** to continue. Then you can select your **state** and **gender** of the child. The cost will be \$25, using a credit card. Thank you for volunteering.

Christmas Eve Service

You are invited and encouraged to attend our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** on Saturday, December 24 at 4 pm. Invite your friends and family to join you for this service of scripture and song ending with our circle of candles and “Silent Night.”

Return on Sunday Morning to rejoice again that God sent his Son to be our Savior.

Offering Envelopes for 2023

You will find your offering envelopes just inside the Fellowship Hall. They are arranged alphabetically.

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.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

In Need of Prayer

Elaine Clay, recovery from stroke
Brenda's brother, Bernard, kidney failure
Bunny Rector, transition new residence
Brenda Cook, blood pressure, infection
Jen Freese's uncle Skip, training Sasha
Janet Young, assisted living
Alberta Weaver, home
Reginia Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
Scott, son of Jim and Patty MacKenzie
For those who grieve:
Bunny Rector, husband
Kelly Rende, wife
Ellen Dorman, husband
Sam Hutson, wife
Linda Szczepanek, multiple deaths in family
Engebretsons, daughter, sister
Hartigs, son
Teresa Lisowski, mother
Electrica Woods, sister
Bill Sackett, grief for Marylyn

In Need of Prayer

Ray Boone, chemotherapy every 3 weeks
Benita Puzzuoli, health, for treatment decisions
Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, young mom, cancer
Darlene Little, heart problems, dialysis
Felicia, breast cancer, relative of Sean Murphy
Linda Johnson's mother, advanced dementia
Dan and Chris, friends of Linda Szczepanek
Sue Isles, relative of Ron & Karen, recurrent cancer/chemo
Domingo, needs transplants, LaShell, cancer.
Emily, friend of Isles, salvation, employment
Rachel Hobson, deliverance from worldly ways (Sean)
Krystal Murphy, co-worker, Ken for back surgery
Krystal's cousin, heart valve surgery
Don Rende's brother, Bob, failing health
Debbie, Pam Paglino's friend, recurrent ovarian cancer
Donna Whiting and family in grief in loss of her sister
Vershav family in Florida, many family stressors
Cindi Taaffee's godson, Michael, for employment
Sheila, Isles family, burns and family care
Peggy, Bev's dear friend, heart damage
Ellen, friend of Sue Work, lost home in Fl. Hurricane

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

General Fund giving last week: \$6,134
Giving to date in December: \$10,574

For an archive of Pastor McGuire's sermons: go to the church website: <http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org>
On the left of the main page, beneath "Home," click audio sermons and choose the one(s) you wish to hear.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 91. What do we do that is good? **A.** Only that which arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, and is done for his glory, and not that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition.