



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD
DECEMBER 25, 2022

Gathering Song: The Birthday of a King

† Call to Worship (Isaiah 9:2,6,7a)

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

Pastor: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Unison: The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

†Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Luke 2:1-7 Responsive

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³**And everyone went to their own town to register.**

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

⁵**He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.**

Acts 13:16-39 Responsive

¹⁶Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! ¹⁷The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; ¹⁸for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; ¹⁹and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. ²⁰All this took about 450 years.

"After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²²After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

²³"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. ²⁵As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶**"Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.**

²⁷The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed.

²⁹**When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.**

³²“We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

“You are my son;
today I have become your father.’

³⁴**God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,**

“I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’

³⁵**So it is also stated elsewhere:**

“You will not let your holy one see decay.”

³⁶“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷But the one God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸**“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.**

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 Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

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

Galatians 3:26—4:7 Responsive

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

^{4:1} What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³ So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Philippians 2:1-11 Responsive

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

**⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,**

**¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father**

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: What Difference Should Jesus' Birth Make in Me?

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Responsive Litany (Colossians 1:15-20)

Pastor: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

People: For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities: all things have been created through him and for him.

Pastor: He is before all things and in him all things hold together.

People: And he is head of the body, the church: he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Unison: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and 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.

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

Alberta Weaver, hospitalized
Reginia Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
Jane Kirkpatrick, recent surgery
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
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

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
Vershave 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, first procedure successful
Ellen, friend of Sue Work, lost home in Fl. Hurricane

General Fund giving last week: \$4,430

Giving to date in December: \$15,004

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. 92. What does the Lord say in his law? **A. God spoke all these words:**
The First Commandment: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.