



God
showed
how much
he loved us by
sending his one
and only Son into
the world so that we
might have eternal
life through him. This is
REAL LOVE

Real Love Christmas Tree. Copyright 2016 Timothy R. Botts | Eyekons



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

DECEMBER 26, 2021
Christmas Sunday

Gathering Song: The Birthday of a King

† Call to Worship (Isaiah 60:1-3, 9:2)

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

People: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Pastor: Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your coming.

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

†Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Responsive

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.

**For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

^{62:1}**For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.**

²The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

³**You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

Psalm 148 Responsive

¹Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

²**Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

³**Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.**

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created,**

⁶**and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
⁸lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹**you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,**
¹⁰**wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**

¹¹kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹²young men and women,
old men and children.

¹³**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

¹⁴**And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.**

Praise the LORD.

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
Coventry Carol**

Offertory

arr: Joel Raney

† 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

Luke 1: 30-56 Responsive

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹**When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!**

⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

⁴⁵**Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"**

**"My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.**

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

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

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³**He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.**

⁵⁴**He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful**

⁵⁵**to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."**

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 2:22-40 Responsive

²²When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons.

²⁵**Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.**

²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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

Sermon: Three Christmas Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

† 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

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music

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

In Need of Prayer

Sue Work
 Cheryl Stevenson
 Alberta Weaver, home
 Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
 Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney
 Jen Freese, training therapy dog, illness
 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
 Dan, friend of Chet Doak
 Carmen, & 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 & Kevin, grieving
 Janet Evans, recent bereavement

In Need of Prayer

Lucy McGuire's brother, Covid & Pneumonia
 Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving
 Judy Carr, foot, plus sister's long term care decisions
 Margaret, Wilsons' friend, brain tumor
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Christopher, son of Ray Boone, heart
 Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months
 Gail Nastwold, for health, wound healing
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Darlene Little, heart health.
 Nancy, friend of Doaks, recurrence of cancer
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger
 Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim & Patty MacKenzie
 Suzanne, friend of Clay family, for wholeness
 Rose, friend of Boones, Covid complications
 First Responders & Border Patrol for safety & 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
 People in South, victims of massive tornado

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

Our Military: Metzner's grandson; and Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq. *William, co-worker of Krystal Murphy, recently deployed overseas.*

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
Giving to general fund Dec: \$15,126
Giving to mortgage in Dec: \$4,420

Pray for those who are grieving and lonely this holiday season. Consider phoning them to encourage them in the Lord.

Heidelberg Catechism Q 45. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us? **A.** First by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is guarantee of our glorious resurrection.