



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 48375
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
248-719-7787

Welcome to Worship

JULY 12, 2020

† **Gathering Hymn: Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

† **Call to Worship** (from Psalm 68)

Pastor: Sing to God, sing praise to his name, his name is the LORD—rejoice before him.

People: Praise be to the LORD, to God our Savior who daily bears our burdens.

Pastor: Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.

People: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord.

Pastor: You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary, the God of Israel gives power and strength to his peoples.

Unison: Praise be to God!

† **Hymn: When the Sun**

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

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Pam Paglino)

Genesis 25:19-34 Responsive

¹⁹This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ **The LORD said to her,**

**"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."**

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

³¹ **Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."**

³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

Isaiah 55:6-13 Responsive

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ **Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

⁹ **“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ **so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**

¹² You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

¹³ **Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the LORD’s renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.”**

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

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Responsive

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

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

Sermon: Planting in Good Soil

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Through the Love of God Our Savior

† Responsive Litany (Colossians 1:9b-14)

Pastor: We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

People: so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Pastor: being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

People: and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Unison: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

†Benediction

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

Music Director: Dr. Eric Roth

To our visitors: We hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you are blessed to share this time with us. We would be happy to hear from you.

In Need of Prayer

Cindy Bemis, Engebretson's daughter, surgery 7/23
Kelly, Pat Grad's daughter
Priscilla Smith, Pat's sister
George Donoian and family
Carolyn Krueger's son, Chuck
Yvonne Ray
Pat Grad's grandson, Luke age 12
Gail Nastwold
Jen Freese's family
Jen's 100 y/o friend, Adele
Brett Johnson, Nancy's son
Lyndsay, daughter of the Sharpes
Don Rende's brother, Bob
David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
Bruce, friend of the Clay family
Jim, Gary, Marion, friends of Szczepaneks
Linda Szczepanek
Cody, grandson of Carolyn Krueger
Cheri Boone's sister's family
Bruce Hartley, employment
Colleen, friend of Kelly Rende
Belinda Williams, beginning her internship in NY

In Need of Prayer

Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs
Judy All, relative of Chernenkoffs, in hospice
Gloria, sister of Bev Thompson
Alberta Weaver, at home
Reginia Higgs
Avery, niece of Teresa Lisowki
Carol, Bev Thompson's cousin
Julia Rende
Tracy, friend of Bunny Rector
Andrew, friend of Bodnars, Guillain-Barré syndrome
Randy, friend of Bodnars
Tim, cancer, nephew of Janet Young
Lauren, niece of Ron Lisowski
Kelly Rende's friend Rich, family care burden
Unbelieving children in our families
Jim Paglino
Sam Hutson, grief
Carolyn Schmierer, assisted living
Ella, age 10, diabetes. friend of Metzners

Karen Isles, Ray Johnson, Krystal Murphy, Angie O'Dell, Claudine Sordyl, Manuel & Astrid Valdivieso, and all healthcare and first responders

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

Monthly need: \$17,083.00

Giving to general fund last week: \$2,810.00

Our Military: Justin, deployed to Qatar; Metzners' grandson; Bryan relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq.

Pray for God's protection of girls/women and intervention to stop the human sex trafficking in our state.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q 101. But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

A. Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness for God's glory and our neighbor's good. Such oaths are approved in God's Word and were rightly used by Old and New Testament believers.



We had planned to resume worshipping together in person last week. However, there were concerns about the safety of our people in view of some increases in infections. Be assured that the Session will continue to monitor the situation, and we will notify you of the new date as soon as possible.

Meanwhile we can still worship together on-line: YouTube or Facebook.

The **new church directories** were delivered just about the time the lockdown began. They will be distributed as soon as we can meet together in person. You may instead pick yours up at the church. Call Bev for new office hours.

Included with our directory is the use of an online directory for your PC and/or smart phone. If you did not receive your personal code and instructions, or if you need assistance please call Bev Thompson @ 734-664-2033.