

23455 Novi Road

Novi MI 48375

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

248-719-7787

www.christ-presbyterianchurch.org

Christ

Presbyterian church

 Presbyterian church

**Welcome to Worship**

**January 29, 2023**

 **Gathering Song: Thy Word**

    **† Call to Worship** (from Psalm 119)

Pastor: May my cry come before you, Lord; give me understanding according to your word.

**People: May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.**

Pastor: May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.

**People: May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.**

Pastor: I long for your salvation, Lord, and your law gives me delight.

**Unison: Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.**

**† Hymn: My Soul, Praise the Lord**

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

**First Scripture Readings**

**Genesis 9:9-17 Responsive**

9“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth.

**11I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”**

12And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

**14Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.**

16Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

**17So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”**

**Isaiah 54:7-10 Responsive**

**7**“For a brief moment I abandoned you,
    but with deep compassion I will bring you back.
**8**In a surge of anger
    I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting kindness
    I will have compassion on you,”
    says the Lord your Redeemer.

**9“To me this is like the days of Noah,
    when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth.
So now I have sworn not to be angry with you,
    never to rebuke you again.**

**10**Though the mountains be shaken
    and the hills be removed,
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken
    nor my covenant of peace be removed,”
    says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

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: Before the Throne of God Above**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** "As the Deer" arr. Mark Hayes **Musician: Yuta Sugano**

**† 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**

**Hebrews 11:1-8 Responsive**

**1** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2This is what the ancients were commended for.

**3By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

4By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

**5By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.**

 6And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**7By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.**

8By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance,

 obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

**Luke 17:20-37 Responsive**

**20**Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus, replied,

“The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, **21**nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

**22Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. 23 People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. 25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.**

6“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

**28“It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.**

30“It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32Remember Lot’s wife!

 33Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. 34I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”

**37“Where, Lord?” they asked.**

**He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”**

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon: The Surprises of the Kingdom of God**

**Dr. James N. McGuire**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: It Is Well with My Soul**

**Responsive Litany** (Titus 2:11-14)

Pastor: For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

**People: It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,**

Pastor: while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

**Unison: who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

**† Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**

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



**First Notice of Annual Congregation Meeting**

The delayed Annual Meeting for the purpose of approving the recommended budget for 2023 and other related business that may come up, will be held on February 19, 2023, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important meeting. Visitors are welcome to observe.

**Volunteers Needed**

Please consider volunteering to work with the children during the time parents are in the worship service. Our goal is to teach them the word of God that they will come to love Jesus. A simple curriculum is available. Sign up in the Narthex. Even once a month would be appreciated. Please see Donna Whiting if interested.

**Speaking of Volunteers:** We can use more people to be helpful in keeping the church clean. This involves things like vacuuming, dusting, and on nice days washing the glass doors. You can decide when you can come. This service not only makes the church look great, but it also saves us the cost of hiring a cleaning service. All cleaning products are provided. Please speak with Bev for any questions.



General Fund giving last week: $1,964

Total giving in January: $11,769

*If you have not picked up your 2023 offering envelopes, please ask Bev.*

**Volunteers needed.** We are delighted to have some more children attending with their families. Would you consider being available to welcome these young ones, and helping them come to love our Lord. Simple curriculum provided. Sign up in Narthex.

**In Need of Prayer**

Celeste Chernenkoff, successful hip surgery on 1/23

Ray Boone, completed chemotherapy, pray for effectiveness

Benita Puzzuoli, pain control, began treatment last week

Linda & Ray Johnson’s son Ryan, for health

Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, young mom, in hospice

Felicia, breast cancer, relative of Sean Murphy

Sean’s family in death of Martin

Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell cancer

Emily, friend of Isles family, salvation and employment

Don Rende’s brother, Bob, failing health

Sue Isles, sister-in-law of Ron/Karen, on chemo

Sean’s aunt & uncle, Sonja/Ronnie, heavy caregiving

Rob, friend of Jen Freese, in nursing home, for salvation

Rachel Hopson, deliverance from worldly ways (Sean)

Debbie, Pam Paglino’s friend, ovarian cancer returned

Krystal’s cousin, heart valve surgery, doing well

Donna Whiting’s sister’s family in grief

Vershave family in Florida, many family stressors

Cindi Taaffee’s godson, Michael, for employment

Sheila, Isles family, burns, family care

Isles family for wisdom in care of aunt, hip, and confusion

Lance, brother-in-law of Isles, liver failure

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks,

For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Heidelberg Catechism Q. 92. God spoke all these words:**

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not kill.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not steal.

The Nineth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**In Need of Prayer**

Brenda’s brother, Bernard, kidney

Brenda for encouragement, health

Bunny Rector, transition new residence

Jennifer, depression, hope

Janet Young, assisted living

Ed Steele, for mobility, back pain

Pat Grad’s, sister, Priscilla, health

Jane Kirkpatrick, encouragement

April Barrett, ankle surgery

Darlene Little, heart and dialysis Frank, friend of Emily, complex surgery

**For those who grieve:**

Donna Whiting, sister

Bunny Rector, husband

Ellen Dorman, husband

Kelly Rende, wife

Sam Hutson, wife

Linda Szczepanek, multiple losses

Engebretsons, daughter, sister

Hartigs, son

Electrica Woods, sister

Linda Davis, 4 family members in 2 yrs.

Reginia Higgs, mother

General Fund giving last week: $4,446

Total giving in December: $19,440

*If you have not picked up your 2023 offering envelopes, you will find them just inside of Fellowship Hall.*