

To Our Visitors
We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Patty, still has Covid symptoms
Brenda and co-worker Pat, very long work hours, for sustaining grace
Rob, homeless in FL, depressed
Karen's sister's son, John, Down's, for gov't compassion for insurance, etc.
Rosie, Linda's daughter, grieving
Ed, for mobility with less pain
Jen, for healing of ankle, mobility
Emilee, for employment
Marie J, for employment ad comfort
Marcus Liew, for restoration of vision
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Nancy, Bunny's daughter, shingles

Benita for normal blood counts, and encouragement
Glad, in rehab, getting stronger
Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis
Lance and Sue, Isles family with cancers
Krystal's friend, Lolita, esophageal cancer
Karen's friend, home alone after back surgery
Sean's aunt, fresh grief, his uncle died recently
Noah, age 14, grandson of Isles, extended family conflict
Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancers
Donna's family, Dan, heart surgery, slow recovery
Pastor Scott McKee
Former member, Judy V. and family in FL, recurrent cancer
Janet Evans, in AZ, confusion
College students, for continuing faith, and clear witness
Pray for strength for caregivers in families of the ill
Pray for our military as they serve in dangerous places
Andrew, son of Craig, deployed to Qatar

January Giving
January 7: \$1,945
January 14: \$4,673
January 21: \$2,870
Giving to Date: \$9,485

Please continue to pray for our ministry partners in other countries being impacted by war. Pray for safety and creative ways to spread the Gospel in difficult times.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 10. Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished? **A.** Certainly not. He is terribly angry about the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit. As a just judge he punishes them now and in eternity. He has declared "Cursed be every one who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them."



CHRIST
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JANUARY 28, 2024

Gathering Song: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (bulletin page 7)

† Call to Worship: (Psalm 103:8-9, 13-17 ESV)

Pastor: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

Pastor: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

People: As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field,

Pastor: for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

Unison: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.

† Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns (page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Reader: Pam Paglino

1 John 4:7-21 Responsive

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ **This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.** ¹⁰ **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ **This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.** ¹⁴ **And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.** ¹⁵ **If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.** ¹⁶ **And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.**

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ **We love because he first loved us.** ²⁰ **Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.** ²¹ **And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**

Acts 16:16-24 Responsive

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

¹⁷ **She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."** ¹⁸ **She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.**

¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and

Satisfied

Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

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: All the Way My Savior Leads Me (page 9)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr: 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

Psalm 147

¹ Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,

how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

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All the Way My Savior Leads Me

² **The LORD builds up Jerusalem;**
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³ **He heals the brokenhearted**
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

⁶ **The LORD sustains the humble**
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷ **Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;**
make music to our God on the harp.

⁸ He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.

¹⁰ **His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,**
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

¹¹ **the LORD delights in those who fear him,**
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

¹² Extol the LORD, Jerusalem;
praise your God, Zion.

¹³ **He strengthens the bars of your gates**
and blesses your people within you.

¹⁴ **He grants peace to your borders**
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶ He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.

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Crown Him with Many Crowns

¹⁷ He hurls down his hail like pebbles.

Who can withstand his icy blast?

¹⁸ He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He has revealed his word to Jacob,
his laws and decrees to Israel.

²⁰ He has done this for no other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 Responsive

¹ As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

² **And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.**

³ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

⁴ **We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.** ⁵ **May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.**

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: The Speeding Ahead of the Word of God

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Satisfied (page 10)

Responsive Litany: Romans 5:1,2 6-8

Pastor: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Pastor: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

People: Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

Unison: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

Musician: Yuta Sugano

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind