



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

MARCH 7, 2021

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: How Firm a Foundation

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Bruce Terras)

Psalm 19 Responsive

¹The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³**They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.**

⁴**Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

⁶It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

⁷**The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.**

**The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.**

⁸The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹**The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.**

**The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.**

¹⁰**They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;**

**they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.**

¹¹By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

Second Scripture Readings

(Reader: Bruce Terras)

Romans 3:19-28 Responsive

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Galatians 3:19-25 Responsive

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.

The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. ²⁰ A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

²² But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

²³ Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed.

²⁴ So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: What Good is God's Law?

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

† The Apostles Creed Unison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

† Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51:1-7) Unison

- Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
- Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
- For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
- Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.
- Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Receiving the Elements of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: O Word of God Incarnate (Lyrics)

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky. We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern for our footsteps shines on from age to age.

The Church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine, and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging sea, amid the rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ to Thee.

O make Your Church, dear Savior a lamp of burnished gold to bear before the nations Your true light, as of old. O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace, till clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face.

† Responsive Litany (Colossians 2:9-10,13-15)

Pastor: For in Christ, the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.

People: When you were dead in your sins in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ.

Pastor: He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it all away, nailing it to the cross.

Unison: And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

† 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 the guest book in the narthex and allow us to greet you. Our normal fellowship time after the service has been postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

In Need of Prayer

Bert Schwab
Bill Rector
Brenda Cook, home from hospital
Cindy Taaffee
Jen Freese, health, grief
Dennis & Ellen Dorman
Kent's sister, Lori
George Donoian and family
Gail Nastwold
John Dellinger's sister, Nancy
Don Rende's brother, Bob
David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
Mark, cousin of Elaine Clay, post-op infection
Jim, Gary, Marion, friends of Szczepaneks
Linda Szczepanek
Cody, grandson of Carolyn Krueger
Cindy Bemis

Yvonne Ray, assisted living
Alberta Weaver, at home
Ken, Bev's son-in-law, severe back pain
Anastasia, for continuing pregnancy
Alanna, daughter of Bruce Terras's manager
Marie Johnson, Linda & Ray Johnson's daughter
Keely & Josh, daughter/son-in-law of Linda Johnson
Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs
Nicki, Donna's neighbor, new cancer
Avery, niece of Teresa Lisowski
Kelly Rende's co-worker, new cancer
Grieving families with recent loss of loved ones: Kelly Rende, Linda Szczepanek, Sam Hutson, Dormans
April's friend Kristen, Kristen's mom with brain cancer---for comfort, salvation
Baby Jase, mom Lindsay, friends of Linda Johnson
Renata, friend of Elaine, auto accident injuries

Healthcare Workers: Ray Johnson, Angie O'Dell, Karen Isles, Krystal Murphy, Claudine Sordyl—for protection from Covid; strength for the long hours, and opportunities for sharing Christ.

Please also pray for people who are struggling over mental health issues, particularly brought on by the stresses of Covid-19, unemployment, etc.

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

Our Military; Metzners' grandson Bryan; and 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.

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
Giving to general fund last week: \$2,945
Giving to general fund in Feb: \$17,095
Giving to mortgage in February: \$1,775

Heidelberg Catechism: Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and death? **A.** Because I belong to Jesus Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

(Part 3 of this question.)