



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 19, 2023

Gathering Song: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

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

Pastor: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in 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: Holy, Holy, Holy

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Luke 16:19-31 Responsive

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Philippians 1:21-27 Responsive

²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

²²If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

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: When We All Get to Heaven

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Count Your Blessings

by Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Yuta Sugano, Musician

† 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

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 Responsive

¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

⁴**For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.** ⁵**Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.**

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight.

⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

John 6:35-40 Responsive

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

³⁷All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Where Do Souls Live After Death?

Second in a Series: What is the Biblical View of Life After Death?

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Jesus Paid It All

† Responsive Litany (from Ephesians 2)

Pastor: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.

People: We were by nature deserving of wrath.

Pastor: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

People: God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

Unison: For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Thanks be to God.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

A rectangular banner with a gradient background transitioning from light green on the left to blue on the right. The word "ANNOUNCEMENT" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters in the center.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking Ahead

It still feels like winter, but Easter is just 4 weeks away. In preparation for Easter Sunday, we will again decorate the sanctuary with lovely lilies. More information to come next week.

Our Maundy Thursday service will be held on, Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 6 p.m. This is always a meaningful service you won't want to miss.

Ladies' Bible Study Meets on Tuesday Mornings

Every week eight or ten ladies meet for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. They meet here at the church at 10 am for about an hour. If you are interested, please see Judy Dellinger, or call.

Working Toward a New Church Directory

You may have noticed that our church directory is out-of-date. Plans are underway to replace it. Be watching over the next few weeks for opportunities to update or add your photo, as well as to update your information for the directory/database.

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1ff

In Need of Prayer

Janet Young, hospice, continued peace
 Brenda's brother, Bernard, save foot
 Bunny Rector, transition new residence
 Jennifer's dad, for cancer care
 Ed Steele, for mobility, back pain
 Pat Grad's, sister, Priscilla, health
 Jane Kirkpatrick, encouragement
 Darlene Little, heart and dialysis
 Ron's brother, HIV, needs housing
 Maureen, dear friend of Lisa Lochrie
 Reagan, child with seizures
 Kay, hospice, for peace, pain control
 Scott, son of Metzners, serious 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, brother
 Hartigs, son
 Electrica Woods, sister
 Linda Davis, 4 family members in 2 yrs.
 Reginia Higgs, mother
 Lucy McGuire, niece, Joanna
 Teresa Lisowski, Aunt Cookie

In Need of Prayer

Paul McGuire, son of Jimmy and Lucy, improving health
 Rosie, daughter of Linda Szczepanek, in ICU
 Ray Boone, pray for strength, cancer gone
 Benita Puzzuoli, strength for ongoing treatments
 Linda & Ray Johnson's son Ryan, for health
 Felicia, breast cancer, relative of Sean Murphy
 Sean's family in death of Martin
 Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell cancer
 Emily, friend of Isles family, employment
 Don Rende's brother, Bob, failing health
 Sean's aunt & uncle, Sonja/Ronnie, heavy caregiving
 Rob, friend of Jen Freese, in nursing home
 Rachel Hopson, healing (Sean)
 Debbie, Pam Paglino's friend, ovarian cancer returned
 Donna Whiting's sister's family in grief
 Judy Vershave and family in Florida
 Cindi Taaffee's godson, Michael, for employment
 Sheila, Isles family, burns, family care
 Isles' Aunt Rose adjustment to new placement for care
 Lance, brother-in-law of Isles, liver failure
 Sue Isles, sister-in-law of Ron/Karen, on chemo
 Pray for the survivors of earthquake in Turkey/Syria
 Pray for students and families at Michigan State
 Pray our children to become warriors for Christ Jesus

General Fund giving last week:
 \$4,035
 Total giving in March: \$12,260

Our congregation is happy to pray for your prayer requests. Please let Bev know when prayers are answered and the name can be removed. Thank you.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 98. But may not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned? **A.** No, we should not try to be wiser than God. He wants his people to be instructed by the living preaching of the Word—not by idols than cannot even talk.