



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 9, 2023

Christ is Risen!

Gathering Song: I Danced in the Morning

† Call to Worship (from 1 Corinthians 15)

Pastor: Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: Since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.

Pastor: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

Unison: But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

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."

Acts 10:34-43 Responsive

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

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: Who is He in Yonder Stall?

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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

Acts 26:1-8 Responsive

¹Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.”

So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense: ²“King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, ³and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴“The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. ⁵They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee.

⁶And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. ⁷This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. ⁸Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

John 20:1-18 Responsive

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

⁸ **Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.** ⁹ **(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)** ¹⁰ **Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.**

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ **They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"**

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ **He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"**

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ **Jesus said to her, "Mary."**

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ **Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"**

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: Geoff Phillips

"I Can Only Imagine" (Mercy Me)

Sermon: God, Who Raises the Dead?

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

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Because He Lives

† 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

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
 Brenda, blood pressure
 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
 Ralph Klein, successful knee 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.
 Lucy McGuire, niece, Joanna
 Teresa Lisowski, Aunt Cookie

In Need of Prayer

Paul McGuire, son of Jimmy & Lucy, improving, still in hospital
 Rosie, daughter of Linda Szczepanek, home, still in pain
 Ray Boone, pray for strength, cancer gone
 Benita Puzzuoli, chemo helping
 Ron Langford, age 34, heart failure, needs transplant
 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
 Debbie, Pam Paglino's friend, responded to treatment
 Donna Whiting's sister's family in grief
 Judy Vershave, return of cancer and family in Florida
 Cindi Taaffee's godson, Michael, for employment
 Lance, brother-in-law of Isles, liver failure
 Sue Isles, sister-in-law of Isles, on chemo
 Jalene Rende, MS flareup, husband Kirk caring for her
 Lee Paglino, young mom, breast cancer, radiation
 Chuck, Step-father of Lisa, family death, despondent
 Karen Isles, injured hip
 .Pray for Caregivers of family members who are ill
 Pray for Covenant School in Nashville
 Pray for victims of multiple tornados
 Chuck, step-father of Lisa Lochrie, family death,

General Fund giving last week:

Thank you for your faithful giving to the Lord.

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. 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.