



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi, MI 48375
Dr. James N. McGuire

Welcome to Worship

APRIL 10, 2022

Gathering Song: I Am Not Skilled to Understand

† Call to Worship (Psalm 118:26-29)

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Pastor: The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine on us.

People: With boughs in hand, join the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

Pastor: You are my God and I will praise you; you are my God and I will exalt you.

Unison: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

† Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Exodus 24:12-18 Responsive

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

¹³Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

¹⁵When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud.

¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Daniel 3:13-30 Responsive

¹³Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?

¹⁵Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

²¹So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²²The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach,

Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

³⁰ **Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.**

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: Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Guest Pianist: Ellen VanNoord

† 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

Romans 4:13-25 Responsive

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

¹⁴ **For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.**

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

¹⁷**As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.**

¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

²⁰**Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."**

²³The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Hebrews 11:1-6 Responsive

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

³**By 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.

⁵**By 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.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Are You Sure About That?

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Jesus, Lover of My Soul

† Responsive Litany (Hebrews 2:1-4,9)

Pastor: We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

People: For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

Pastor: This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

People: God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Unison: But we see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Announcements and Upcoming Events

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

On Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, we will have our **Tenebrae Service**, a Service of Shadows. It will begin at 6 p.m. and focus on Christ's death on our behalf.

Easter Sunday is April 17. Come and rejoice in the reality of Christ's resurrection, sing the joyous hymns, and hear again the Word of God.

We are happy to announce a return to our regular pre-Covid 19 church activities beginning today. You should have received an email or letter with the details. We will NOT have after-worship fellowship time on Easter Sunday, but expect to resume our weekly times on April 24. Sunday School will begin on the 24 and Wednesday night Bible study starts again on April 27. We look forward to seeing you.

Of course, you may choose to wear a mask or social distance according to your comfort.

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 our guest book. Our normal fellowship time after the service has been postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

In Need of Prayer

Janet Young, in rehab after falls
 Linda Szczepanek, multiple family deaths
 Jen Freese, pain
 Patty Bodnar
 Cheryl Stevenson
 Alberta Weaver, home
 Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
 Brenda Cook, blood pressure, poor kidney
 Brenda's siblings, Bernard and Joyce
 Don Rende's brother, Bob, poor health
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Gary, Marion, Dan, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Dot, friend of Cheri Boone
 Grace, injuries, per Gail N.
 Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
 Al Lindsay, chemotherapy for lung cancer
 Sue Work, full healing while in FL
 Karen Isles, legal deposition
 Boone's friend caring for invalid, age 102
Pray for the Persecuted Church
Pray for the war in Ukraine

In Need of Prayer

Chuck Krueger, son of Carolyn Krueger, knee surgery/fall
 Lauren, niece of Ron Lisowski
 Katalee Deighton, recovering from surgery
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving
 Margaret, Wilson's friend, brain tumor
 Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months
 Gail Nastwold, for health
 Darlene Little, heart health
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim & Patty MacKenzie
 Rose, friend of Boone's, COVID complications
 First responders & Border Patrol for safety & wisdom
 Karen Isles' brother-in-law, Lance, anxiety, loss of job
 Karen Isles, sister-in-law, beginning chemo for cancer
 Delilah, young relative of the Isles family
 Linda Johnson's mother, advanced dementia
 Pam Paglino's friend, relatives in Ukraine
 Pray for your elders and deacons
 Salvation for Edward, Laura, Nick

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

Our Military: Metzner's grandson; Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq. William, co-worker of Krystal Murphy, recently deployed overseas.

Monthly Budget Need: \$18,333
Giving to General Fund last week: \$7,185
Giving to General Fund in April: \$7,185
Giving to Mortgage in April: \$175

Please pray for those who have had recent losses in their family, for God's comfort and peace.

58 Heidelberg Catechism: Q. 60. What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

A. In Christ I am right with God and heir to life everlasting.

