



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

APRIL 25, 2021

Gathering Song: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

† Call to Worship (from Psalm 97)

Pastor: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

People: Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Pastor: The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

People: Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

Unison: Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

† Hymn: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Pray

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Pam Paglino)

Acts 4:5-12 Responsive

⁵The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family.

⁷**They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"**

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel:

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

¹¹Jesus is

 "the stone you builders rejected,
 which has become the cornerstone."

¹²**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."**

Psalm 23 Responsive

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,**

³ **he refreshes my soul.**

**He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.**

⁴Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.**

**You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

1 John 1:1-10, 2:1-6 Responsive

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

² **The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.**

³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ **This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.**

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

^{2:1} My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³ **We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.**

⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Here's What We Know (Part 1)

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

† Responsive Litany (Colossians 1:9b-14)

Pastor: We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

People: so that you might live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Pastor: Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

People: and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the Inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Unison: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

Music Director: Dr. Eric Roth

Dear church family and friends,

On May 8th I will celebrate the milestone birthday of becoming 80 years old. To help me celebrate, I am inviting you, *in lieu of birthday cards or gifts*, to join me in contributing to West Side Baby, a Seattle charity that helps families with diapers, clothing, car seats and other needs, and I will DOUBLE MATCH all contributions.

Cards these days easily run \$5.00. With my double match, West Side Baby will get \$15.00. And of course, you can give whatever you'd like. Shortly after my birth date passes, West Side Baby will send me the list of names of contributors (but not the amounts), and I, with deep satisfaction, will write the check for my contribution.

I encourage you to visit the website, <https://westsidebaby.org>. If you are motivated to contribute, click the <donate> button at the top of the website, and in the "comments" box put in "Eric Roth Birthday." I assure you that this is a well-run and well-respected organization; the executive director is my daughter-in-law!

I am grateful for all of my church family and friends, and I look forward to future milestone birthdays!

Eric



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

Brenda Cook, health, esp. kidney
 Cindy Taaffee
 Jen Freese, grief, training of therapy dog
 Dennis (Ellen) Dorman, cancer
 Kent's sister, Lori
 George Donoian, hospitalized
 John Dellinger's sister, Nancy
 Don Rende's brother, Bob
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Mark, Elaine's cousin, cardiac rehab
 Gary, Marion, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Ray Boone's friend, Marvin, set-back
 Dan, friend of Doaks, fall/rehab
 Alberta Weaver, for stability
 Reginia Higgs, strength caring for Alberta
 Justin Conn, kidney transplant recovery
 Linda Szczepanek
 Jen's mom, foot fracture
 Sara, daughter of Linda Johnson, Covid
 Belinda Williams, discerning God's will
 Lori Palumbo, grief

In Need of Prayer

Karen Deighton, knee surgery 4/9
 Charlie Wilson
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Gail Nastwold's family for full recovery from Covid
 Anastasia, high risk pregnancy, 29 weeks
 Alanna, auto accident, more surgeries & rehab
 Marie Johnson, Linda & Ray's daughter
 Keely & Josh (USN), daughter/son-in-law of Linda Johnson
 Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs
 Nicki, Donna's neighbor, new cancer
 Kelly Rende's co-worker, Kirk, cancer treatment
 Grieving families with recent losses of loved ones:
 Kelly Rende, Linda Szczepanek, Sam Hutson, Dormans
 Ray Johnson, Karen Isles, Angie O'Dell, Krystal Murphy, Claudine Sordyl, and other healthcare workers to keep well
 Baby Jase, Mom Lindsey, friends of Linda Johnson
 Danny, brother-in-law of Donna Whiting, pain, leg ulcers
 Bruce's co-worker, Tony, bladder cancer
 Justin Eizak, grandson of Linda Szczepanek, knee injury/tests
 Rita, friend of Bruce Terras, chemotherapy
 Joni, Philip, Christian workers in Myanmar, protection

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

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
 Giving to general fund last week: \$2,360
 Giving to general fund in April: \$8,826
 Giving to mortgage in April: \$751.37

Our Military: Metzners' grandson; and Bryan, 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.

Pray for those of our church who worship on-line, that they will sense the love and care we have for each other.

Heidelberg Catechism: But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in his law what man is unable to do? **A.** No, God created man with the ability to keep the law. Man, however, tempted by the devil, in reckless disobedience, robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.