



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

MAY 2, 2021

Gathering Song: You Are My All in All

† Call to Worship (Psalm 108:1-5)

Pastor: My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

People: Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

Pastor: I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

People: For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Unison: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.

† Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Kelly Rende)

Acts 8:26-40 Responsive

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹**“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.**

³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴**The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.**

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

³⁸**And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.**

⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Psalm 22:25-31 Responsive

²⁵From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶**The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,

Second Scripture Readings

(Reader: Kelly Rende)

John 15:1-17 Responsive

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

³ **You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ **If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ **“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ **I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

¹⁷ **This is my command: Love each other.**

I John 2:1-29 Responsive

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.**

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹ **Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.**

¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do

not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

**¹² I am writing to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.**

**¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.**

**I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.**

¹⁴ I write to you, dear children,
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

¹⁸ Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

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

Sermon: Here's What We Know (Part 2)

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (See page 7)

† Hymn: O Word of God Incarnate

† Responsive Litany (from Ephesians 5)

Pastor: Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

People: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light and find out what pleases the Lord.

Pastor: Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

People: Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Unison: Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

Music Director: Dr. Eric Roth

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

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inward parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

⁷ 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

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, in rehab
 John Dellinger's sister, Nancy
 Don Rende's brother, Bob
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Mark, Elaine's cousin, home now
 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
 Lori Palumbo, grief

In Need of Prayer

Priscilla Smith, Surgery tomorrow, 5/3
 Charlie Wilson
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Gail Nastwold's family for full recovery from Covid
 Anastasia, high risk pregnancy, 31 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
 Bell family in death of 17 year old son
 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>

Our Military: Metzners' grandson; and Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq.

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
 Giving to general fund last week: \$3,350
 Giving to general fund in April: \$15,666
 Giving to mortgage in April: \$4,306

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: Q 10. Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished? A. Certainly not. He is terribly angry about the sin we were born with as well as the sins we personally commit. As a just judge he punishes them now and in eternity. He has declared: "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in this book of the law and do them."