



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

JUNE 27, 2021

Gathering Song: Lead On, O King Eternal

† Call to Worship (Psalm 9:1,2, 7-10)

Leader: I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

People: I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

Leader: The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the people with equity.

People: The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Unison: Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

† Hymn: Like a River Glorious

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Responsive

¹ After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days.

¹⁷ **David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, ¹⁸ and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):**

¹⁹ “A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel.
How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ **“Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad,
lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice.**

²¹ “Mountains of Gilboa,
may you have neither dew nor rain,
may no showers fall on your terraced fields.^(b)
For there the shield of the mighty was despised,
the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

²² **“From the blood of the slain,
from the flesh of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.**

²³ Saul and Jonathan—
in life they were loved and admired,
and in death they were not parted.
They were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

²⁴ **“Daughters of Israel,
weep for Saul,
who clothed you in scarlet and finery,
who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.**

²⁵ “How the mighty have fallen in battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

²⁶ I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;
you were very dear to me.

Your love for me was wonderful,
more wonderful than that of women.

²⁷ **“How the mighty have fallen!
The weapons of war have perished!”**

Second Scripture Readings

Colossians 1:13-16 Responsive

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ **The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.**

John 2:1-12 Responsive

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ **"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."**

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ **Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.**

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ **Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."**

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹² **After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.**

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

**Sermon: Our Miracle-Working Messiah:
When Water Looked at Its Creator and Blushed**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Greg Hands

We welcome to our pulpit today Reverend Greg Hands, who is accompanied by his wife Joyce. Reverend Hands is retired from his last pastorate of 33 years at the Woodhaven Bible Church in Woodhaven, MI. Before taking that Pastorate, he was full-time faculty at the Detroit Bible College (later known as William Tyndale College) for 7 years. He graduated with his Masters of Theology as “cum laude” from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1977, where he majored in Bible Exposition. He loves to preach and teach the Scriptures, and in retirement leads a weekly Bible study in his home and guest preaches almost every Sunday in various pulpits in Michigan.

He and Joyce, have two married daughters and two young grandchildren.

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

† Responsive Litany (Colossians 1:15-20)

Leader: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

People: For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Leader: And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Unison: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music

Pray for these, our brothers and sisters in Christ

Updated Information from Persecution.org

June 17, 2021. Jihadist attacks in West Africa have been on the rise since the beginning of this year, with **Nigeria being consistently targeted more than any other country in the region.** Terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, Fulani Militants, and ISWAP have killed tens of thousands of Christians and displaced millions in an attempt to discard western influence and impose strict Islamic Sharia law. Illia Djadi, Open Doors senior analyst on freedom of religion and belief in sub-Saharan Africa, stated: *“In the northeast of Nigeria, Boko Haram spreads terror with its systematic raids on predominantly Christian communities with abductions, sexual violence, and roadblock killings... Christians have been specifically targeted and disproportionately been affected by this violence... The responses by the government are clearly not enough, since perpetrators of such violence are able to continue attacking Christians, and other Nigerians, with impunity.”*

From opendoorsusa.org

What does persecution look like in India? What is life like for Christians?

Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. They use extensive violence to achieve this goal, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background. Christians are accused of following a “foreign faith” and blamed for bad luck in their communities. These believers are often physically attacked and sometimes killed, as well as being under constant pressure from their family and community to return to Hinduism. If they do not “re-convert,” they may be boycotted by their community, with a devastating effect on their ability to earn income. Many believers are isolated and don’t know any other Christians.

Christians are persecuted in all areas of public and private life, and anti-conversion laws (currently in nine states, with more considering adoption) are abused to harass and intimidate Christians. Few people are actually convicted under these laws, but cases can drag on for years.

For more information, please see both of these sites.

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

Gail Nastwold, heart surgery on 6/7
 Stella, 8 years
 Brenda Cook, health, esp. kidney
 Cindy Taaffee
 Jen Freese, grief, training of therapy dog
 Jen's father, Lymphoma
 Dennis (Ellen) Dorman, cancer
 Kent's sister, Lori
 George Donoian, in rehab
 Don Rende's brother, Bob
 Don Rende's nephew, Chris
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Mark, Elaine's cousin, home now
 Gary, Marion, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Alberta Weaver, for stability
 Reginia Higgs, strength caring for Alberta
 Linda Szczepanek
 Dot, friend of Cheri Boone
 Pat Grad's cousin, Christopher, Covid
 Cheri Boone', brother-in-law, shoulder
 Justin, 14, grandson of Linda S, knee

In Need of Prayer

Kelly, Pat Grad's daughter, surgery 6/29
 Bill Rector, shoulder surgery, 6/10
 Sue Work, surgery 6/18
 Donna Whiting
 Charlie Wilson
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma, recent tests
 Anastasia, high risk pregnancy, 37 weeks
 Tom Metzner
 Alanna, auto accident, more surgeries & rehab
 Marie Johnson, Linda & Ray's daughter
 Keely & Josh (USN), daughter/son-in-law of Linda Johnson
 Nicki, Donna's neighbor, new cancer
 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
 Danny, brother-in-law of Donna Whiting, pain, leg ulcers
 Joni, Philip, Christian workers in Myanmar, protection
 India, suffering widespread Covid deaths
 Dan, friend of Chet Doak
 Kelly, Pat Grad's daughter, surgery 6/29

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

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
 Giving to general fund last week: \$6,295
 Giving to general fund in June: \$13,678
 Giving to mortgage in June: \$1,070

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: Q. 18. And who is the mediator—true God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous? **A.** Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was given to us to set us completely free and to make us right with God.