



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

July 30, 2023

Gathering Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord

† Call to Worship: (Psalm 104:24,31,33)

Pastor: How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

People: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

Unison: I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

† Hymn: Lord of the Universe

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings
Deuteronomy 25:5-10 Responsive

⁵If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her.

⁶**The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.**

⁷However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to me."

⁸**Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying, "I do not want to marry her,"** ⁹**his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face and say, "This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's family line."**

¹⁰That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsandaled.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Responsive

¹³Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

¹⁴**For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.**

¹⁵According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸**Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

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: O Word of God Incarnate

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: The Old Rugged Cross

Arr: Yuta Sugano

† 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

Revelation 21:1-8 Responsive

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**

⁴“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵**He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”**

⁶He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Luke 20:27-40 Responsive

²⁷Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question.

²⁸“Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.

²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. ³⁰The second ³¹ and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. ³² Finally, the woman died too. ³³ Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage,

³⁶and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection.

³⁷But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ ³⁸ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

³⁹Some of the teachers of the law responded, “Well said, teacher!” ⁴⁰And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

Sermon: Three Absurdities About Life after Death

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Responsive Litany (1 Peter 1:3-6)

Pastor: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Pastor: and into an inheritance which can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

People: who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Unison: In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Notes

Next Sunday, August 6, we expect to have **Tim N.**, one of our Global Partners, visit us and share the work he is doing in a Middle Eastern country. Come and be blessed and be informed in ways you can pray for him and his ministry.

Looking ahead.....

Several people have noticed that our church directory is woefully out of date. There are plans to update it and include those who are newer to our congregation. We will do it “in-house”, not to have a photography company involved.

The over-all plan is to make new photographs available for those whose current photo needs updating. If you like the one in the current directory, you certainly may keep it. Of course, we want to be sure that your contact information is correct.

More information will be available soon.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In Need of Prayer

Brenda, kidney infection
Jen's father, chemo treatment
Jen, serious ankle injury
Ed, for mobility, back pain
Nancy, health
Jane, encouragement
Darlene, heart and dialysis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Reagan, child with seizures
Kay, hospice, for peace and pain relief
Kimi, for suffering
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill
Isaiah, age 17, brain injury
Betty, ill, alone and afraid
Richard, chemo, prep for stem cell transplant
Don's sister, Linda, breast cancer
Liz, treatment for MS
Corbin, for bleeding problem

In Need of Prayer

Andy, improving daily from brain surgery
Patty, encouragement, physical strength
Glad, home, for increased strength
Paul, recuperating at home
Ray, recovery of strength
Benita, strength, blood counts low
Jalene, MS flare-up and heart attack, husband care
Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer
Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving
Debbie, Pam's friend
Judy V. and family in Florida
Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family
Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family
Ron, age 34, heart failure, needs heart transplant
Lee, breast cancer, mother of small children.
Shirley, injuries in a fall
Katalee, for full healing of lymphoma
Nate, firefighter, for safety each day
Relatives of Clay family suffered a house fire

General Fund giving last week: \$3,860
Total giving to date in July: \$16,766
Thank you for your faithful giving to the Lord.

We welcome all visitors today and look forward to meeting new friends. Please let us know your name and how you found our church. We hope you will remain for Fellowship time/coffee through the double doors.

Heidelberg Catechism Q.115 No one in this life can obey the ten commandments perfectly: Why then does God want them preached so pointedly?

A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.

(Look for an additional answer next week.)