



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

AUGUST 29, 2021

Gathering Song: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Call to Worship (from Psalm 119)

Pastor: May my cry come before you, LORD; give me understanding according to your word.

People: May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.

Pastor: May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.

People: May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

Pastor: I long for your salvation, LORD, and your law gives me delight.

Unison: Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.

† Hymn: Come, Christians, Join to Sing

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Psalm 15 Responsive

A psalm of David.

¹LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?

²**The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart;**

³whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others;

⁴**who despises a vile person
but honors those who fear the LORD;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
and does not change their mind;**

⁵who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

**Whoever does these things
will never be shaken.**

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Responsive

¹²And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

¹⁴**To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today.**

¹⁶Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

¹⁸**He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.**

²⁰Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.

²¹He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.

²²**Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.**

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

† Hymn: O, to See the Dawn

Offertory

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
I Need Thee Every Hour

arr: Joel Raney

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

Mark 7:1-8, 14,15, 21-13

¹ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

³ **(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)**

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ **He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:**

**“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.**

**⁷They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’**

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴ **Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”**

²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

James 1:12-27 Responsive

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

¹³ **When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of

truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

Sermon: How to Strengthen Your Faith

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

† Responsive Litany (Ephesians 6:10-13)

Pastor: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

People: Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Pastor: For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Unison: Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music

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

Sue Work, continued recovery
 Marylyn Pfeifer, in hospital w/Covid
 Bill Sackett, Covid
 Brenda Cook, health, esp. kidney
 Jen Freese, grief, training of therapy dog
 Dennis (Ellen) Dorman, in hospice
 George Donoian
 Don Rende's brother, Bob
 Don Rende's nephew, Chris
 David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
 Gary, Marion, friends of L.Szczepanek
 Alberta Weaver, for stability
 Reginia Higgs, strength caring for Alberta
 Linda Szczepanek, and grandson, Justin
 Dot, friend of Cheri Boone
 Dan, friend of Chet Doak
 Pam Paglino's friend, recurrence of cancer
 Ken Lindsay's brother, Al
 Ray Boone, surgery 8/24
 Christy, daughter of Dellinger's, Heart
 Dennis, friend of Puzzuoli's, hard times

In Need of Prayer

Pam Paglino's mother, extensive back surgery
 Rebekah, major heart reconstruction, friend of Judy Carr
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Gail Nastwold, for health
 Bill Rector
 Nancy, friend of Doak's, recurrence of cancer
 Joyce, sister of Brenda Cook
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Alanna, auto accident, more surgeries & rehab
 Grieving families with recent loss of loved ones
 Nancy, John Dellinger's sister
 Ray Johnson, Karen Isles, Angie O'Dell, Krystal Murphy, Claudine Sordyl, and other healthcare workers to keep well
 Bruce's co-worker, Tony, bladder cancer
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Justin Isles as he begins his seminary education
 Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger
 First Responders & Border Patrol, safety and wisdom
 Joan, dear friend of Janet Evans
 Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim & Patty MacKenzie
Afghani Christians, strong faith, the Lord's 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: \$3,630
Giving to general fund in August: \$15,035
Giving to mortgage in August: \$813

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Renate (Peter) Hartig in the death of her brother, in Germany.

Our sincere sympathy also, to Sean (Krystal) Murphy in the death of his father on August 16.

Psalm 34:18: The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q. 28. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us? **A.** We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, as for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love. All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move or be moved.