



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# Welcome to Worship

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

**Gathering Song: Blessed Assurance**

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

Pastor: O LORD, how many are your works; in wisdom you have 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.**

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD all my life;

**Unison: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

**† Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues**

**† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

## First Scripture Readings

### Psalm 1 Responsive

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
<sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.
- <sup>3</sup> **That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.**
- <sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff  
that the wind blows away.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> **For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

### Jeremiah 11:18-20 Responsive

<sup>18</sup> Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. <sup>19</sup> I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying,

**“Let us destroy the tree and its fruit;  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
that his name be remembered no more.”**

<sup>20</sup> But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously  
and test the heart and mind,  
let me see your vengeance on them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

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: At the Name of Jesus Every Knee Shall Bow

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Stacey Becker, Guest Pianist

## 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

### James 3:13-4:10 Responsive

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

<sup>15</sup> **Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.** <sup>16</sup> **For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

<sup>4:1</sup> **What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.**

<sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>4</sup> **You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore,**

**anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

<sup>5</sup> Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

**“God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble.”**

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you.

**Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

### **Matthew 18:1-14 Responsive**

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

<sup>2</sup> **He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.**

<sup>6</sup> “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

<sup>7</sup> **Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!**

<sup>8</sup> If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

<sup>9</sup> **And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.**

<sup>10</sup> “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

<sup>12</sup> **“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?**

<sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

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

**Sermon: Are You the Greatest**  
Dr. James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer**

† Hymn: Through the Love of God My Savior

**Responsive Litany (from Ephesians 2)**

Pastor: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.

**People: We were by nature deserving of wrath.**

Pastor: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

**People: And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**

**Unison: For it is by grace you have been saved—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**

**Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor**

**Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music**



### **Upcoming Congregational Meeting**

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting for the purpose of election of officers on **September 26, 2021**, immediately following the worship service. All members are encouraged to attend.

### **Looking Ahead to Tax Season**

Did you know that if you itemize your deductions, the CARES Act allows you to deduct charitable contributions up to 100% of your AGI (adjusted gross income on your 2021 taxes. And if you are not itemizing, you can claim up to \$300 (singly) & \$600 (jointly) as an “above –the-line” deduction. Consult your tax preparer for more information.

### **Ladies’ Bible Study**

The Tuesday Morning Ladies’ Bible Study has resumed meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Gathering in the Fellowship Hall for about an hour, they have begun to study the book of Isaiah. It is not too late to join in. Please call or email Judy Dellinger if you are interested. [jfdellinger@yahoo.com](mailto:jfdellinger@yahoo.com)

**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**

<p><b>In Need of Prayer</b>          Celeste Chernenkoff's brother, Keith          Brenda Cook, health, esp. kidney function          Nancy Hill          Jen Freese, training of therapy dog          George Donoian          Don Rende's brother, Bob, nephew Chris          David, friend of Cindy Taaffee          Gary, Marion, Dan, friends of L.Szczepanek          Alberta Weaver, for stability          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          Dennis, friend of Puzzuolis, hard times          Carmen, friend of Gail, fall with injuries          Linda Johnson's parents          Judy Carr's sister, stroke, seeks guardian          Gail, friend of Patty Bodnar          Family of Tasha, grief          Staff needs at St. Mary Hospital</p>	<p><b>In Need of Prayer</b>          Jackie (Charlie) Wilson, death in family          Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, lymphoma          Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer          Christopher, son of Ray Boone, hypertension          Sue Work's parents, mom in rehab, both need assist living          Pam Paglino's mother, extensive back surgery          Rebekah, major heart reconstruction, friend of Judy Carr          Gail Nastwold, for health, wound healing          Katalee Deighton, lymphoma          Joyce, sister of Brenda Cook          Nancy, friend of Doaks, recurrence of cancer          Nancy, John Dellinger's sister          John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer          Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger          For First Responders &amp; Border Patrol, safety &amp; wisdom          Joan, dear friend of Janet Evans          Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim &amp; Patty MacKenzie          Suzanne, friend of Clay family, for wholeness          Margaret, nurse with brain cancer, Wilson request          For Afghani Christians: protection, strong faith</p>
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<p><b>Audio Sermons</b> can be heard on the church website: <a href="http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org">http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org</a></p> <p><b>Monthly need: \$17,083.00</b>  <b>Giving to general fund last week: \$3,820</b>  <b>Giving to general fund in Sept.: \$10,755</b>  <b>Giving to mortgage in September: \$650</b></p>	<p><b>Our deepest sympathy</b> is extended to Ellen and the family of Dennis Dorman who succumbed after a long battle, to cancer on September 3, 2021.</p> <p><b>Our sincere sympathy</b> is also extended to the family of Marylyn Pfeifer: Bill Sackett, daughter Teresa (Ron) Lisowski, grandson Liam Pfeifer and others, on her death on September 5, 2021.</p>
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**Heidelberg Catechism: Q 31.** Why is he called "Christ", meaning "Anointed?" A. Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who perfectly reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God for our deliverance, our only high priest who has set us free by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father, and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit.