



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 48375
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
248-719-7787

Welcome to Worship

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

† Gathering Hymn: The Tender Love a Father Has

† Call to Worship (Psalm 103:8,9,13-17, ESV)

Pastor: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

Pastor: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

People: As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field,

Pastor: for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

Unison: But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.

† Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Sue Work)

Exodus 16:2-15 Responsive

²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?”

⁸Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹The LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat

Jonah 3:10-4:11 Responsive

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

¹ But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.

⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹**But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"**

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

¹⁰**But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"**

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 Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Offertory

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Wonderful Words of Life
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eric Roth

† 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

(Reader: Sue Work)

Philippians 2:1-13 Responsive

¹Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

³**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
⁷rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

**⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

¹²So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Matthew 21:23-32 Responsive

²³Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Does God Really Care?

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Shout to the Lord

Responsive Litany (Romans 8:28-32, ESV)

Pastor: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

People: **For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.**

Pastor: And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called, he also justified, and those who he justified, he also glorified.

People: **What then shall we say to these things?**

Unison: **If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him, graciously give us all things?**

† 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 the guest book in the narthex and allow us to greet you. Our normal fellowship time after the service has been postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

In Need of Prayer

Bunny Rector, surgery **recently**
Janet Young
Bruce Hartley, employment
Kent's sister Lori
Kelly, Pat Grad's daughter
George Donoian and family
Pat Grad's grandson, Luke age 12
Gail Nastwold
Jen Freese and family
Sally Freese, shingles pain
Brett Johnson, Nancy's son
Lyndsay, daughter of the Sharpes
Don Rende's brother, Bob
David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
Bruce, friend of the Clay family
Jim, Gary, Marion, friends of Szczepaneks
Linda Szczepanek
Cody, grandson of Carolyn Krueger
Colleen, friend of Kelly Rende
Nancy, friend of Doaks
Joy Kull, in hospice (Szczpanek)

In Need of Prayer

Patrick, Linda Davis' cousin, hospitalized,
Marie Johnson, Linda & Ray Johnson's daughter
Nicki, Donna's neighbor, new cancer
Keely & Josh, daughter/son-in-law of Linda Johnson
Julie, dear friend of Chernenkoffs
Alberta Weaver, at home
Reginia Higgs
Avery, niece of Teresa Lisowki
Carol, Bev Thompson's cousin
Tracy, friend of Bunny Rector
Andrew, friend of Bodnars, Guillain-Barré syndrome
Randy, friend of Bodnars
Tim, cancer, nephew of Janet Young
Lauren, niece of Ron Lisowski
Kelly Rende's friend Rich, family care burden
Carolyn Schmierer, assisted living
Yvonne Ray, assisted living
Unbelieving children in our families
Kelly Rende, grief
Family of Anna, died complications of childbirth
Brenda's neighbors, recent death in family

Please update this list as appropriate by alerting Bev Thompson.

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

Monthly need: \$17,083.0

Giving to general fund last week: \$5,130

Giving to general fund in this month: \$9,385

Giving to mortgage in September: \$1,215

Our Military: Justin, deployed to Qatar; Metzners' grandson; 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.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q. 111. What does God require of you in the eighth commandment? **A.** That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good, that I treat him as I would like others to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.



The congregational meeting for the purpose of electing church officers will be held on September 27, 2020, following our worship service. Members are reminded to attend this important part of the life of our church. Candidates for officers include John Dellinger, Cindy Taaffee for elder; Donna Whiting, Benita Puzzuoli for deacon; and Linda Davis for Trustee.

Please remember to wear your mask or a face shield, and of course, maintain the six-foot distance guideline.

If you are not able to come, we remind you that *Audio Sermons* are available on our website: www.christ-presbyterianchurch.org In addition, Dr. McGuire's video sermons will premier Sunday mornings at 10:30 on Facebook and YouTube. Links will usually sent on Saturday.

The Ladies' Bible Study will begin to meet again, this time in the Fellowship Hall to be socially distant. The first day will be Tuesday, September 15, at 10 am. The topic will be Minor Prophets, Book Two. Please speak with Judy Dellinger if you would like a guide (\$10).

Praying Around the World

The churches in China and India, continue to be under increasing stress and persecution, especially pastors. **Christians are being killed for their faith.**

African and South American countries are experiencing severe pandemic effects w/limited resources. Indian and Nigerian Christians are under intense persecution.

CDC (Central Detroit Christian) ministry to this neighborhood has been deeply limited, yet the needs have increased. Unemployment means no ability to pay rent, feed their children, etc. Pray for wisdom and resources for Lisa Johanan and her team.

Pray for our friends: the Fogelbachs, Tim North, Marcus Liew, Enrique Cepeda, as well as Lisa Johanan.