



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road  
Novi MI 48375  
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire  
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# Welcome to Worship

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

† **Gathering Hymn: We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise**

† **Call to Worship** (Psalm 107:1-2a, 9,21-22 ESV)

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

**People: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble.**

Pastor: He satisfies the longing soul and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

**People: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

**Unison: And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!**

† **Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

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

## First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Kelly Rende)

### Exodus 17:1-7 Responsive

<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

**Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"**

<sup>3</sup> But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

**<sup>4</sup> Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."

**So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"**

### Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-32 Responsive

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

**"The parents eat sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on edge'?"**

<sup>3</sup> "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup> For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

**<sup>25</sup> "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?"**

<sup>26</sup> If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die.

**<sup>27</sup> But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die.**

<sup>29</sup>Yet the Israelites say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

<sup>30</sup>**"Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.**

<sup>31</sup>Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

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: Now I Belong to Jesus**

**Offertory**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
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: Kelly Rende)<sup>5</sup>

**Philippians 1:21-30 Responsive**

<sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

<sup>23</sup>**I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup>but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will**

**continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.**

<sup>27</sup>Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup>without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

**This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup>since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.**

### **Matthew 20: 1-16 Responsive**

<sup>1</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> **“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went.**

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup> **“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.**

**“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’**

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

<sup>9</sup> **“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.**

<sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

<sup>13</sup> **“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’**

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

**Sermon: The Generosity of God on Display**  
Dr. James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King**

**Responsive Litany** (Colossians 1:9b-14 ESV)

**Pastor:** We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

**People:** **so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,**

**Pastor:** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.

**People:** **and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.**

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

**† 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.**

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**In Need of Prayer**

Bunny Rector, surgery recently  
Cindy Bemiss  
Bruce Hartley, employment  
Kent's sister Lori  
George Donoian and family  
Pat Grad's grandson, Luke age 12  
Gail Nastwold  
Jen Freese, lungs. Maya, new puppy selection  
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 and other family members  
Cody, grandson of Carolyn Krueger  
Colleen, friend of Kelly Rende  
Nancy, friend of Doaks  
Janet Young  
Carolyn Schmierer, assisted living  
Yvonne Ray, assisted living

**In Need of Prayer**

Gene & Linda Szczepanek  
Jack Engebretson  
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  
Ben, student with Covid19, Bodnar nephew  
Carol, Bev Thompson's cousin  
Tracy, friend of Bunny Rector  
Randy, friend of Bodnars  
Tim, cancer, nephew of Janet Young  
Lauren, niece of Ron Lisowski  
Kelly Rende's co-worker, new cancer  
Unbelieving children in our families  
Kelly Rende, grief  
Family of Anna, died complications of childbirth

Our sympathy is extended to Linda Davis in the death of her cousin, Patrick, and to the Szczepanek family in the death of Joy Kull.

**Please update this list as appropriate by alerting Bev Thompson.**

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

**Monthly need: \$17,083.0**

**Giving to general fund last week: \$3,445**

**Giving to general fund in this month: \$12,830**

**Giving to mortgage in September: \$2,515**

**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.



**Today, our congregational meeting** will be held following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is for the election of church officers. Members are reminded to attend this part of the life of our church. *See the enclosed leaflet for nominees.*

**The Ladies' Bible Study** has begun but new ladies are welcome. We meet in the Fellowship Hall to for social distancing. Weekly meetings are on Tuesdays 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 most oppressive country in the world for Christians is North Korea. Please pray especially for those in prison camps, suffering from Covid-19 and a dire shortage of food. It is estimated that there are 300,000 believers in N. Korea.**

**Pray for the persecuted church around the world.**

Churches in China, India, and Nigeria continue to be under increasing stress and persecution, especially pastors.

African and South American countries are experiencing severe pandemic effects with limited resources.

Locally, 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 those we support: the Fogelbachs, Tim North, Marcus Liew, Enrique Cepeda, as well as Lisa Johanan.

**Remember to pray for all of our church members, some of whom are reluctant to come to our worship service. We miss them and pray that they will remain well.**