



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 19, 2023

Gathering Song: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

† Call to Worship (selections from Psalm 118)

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

People: The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Pastor: The Lord is God and he has made his light shine on us.

People: You are my God, and I will exalt you.

Unison: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

† Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings

Matthew 4:1-11 Responsive

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ **Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ **Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”**

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ **Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”**

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Hebrews 10:19-25 Responsive

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

²¹ **and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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.

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: In Christ There is No East or West

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *I Surrender All*

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

John 8:32-47 Responsive

³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹“Abraham is our father,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹You are doing the works of your own father.”

“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

⁴⁶Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 Responsive

¹⁷But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

¹⁸For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. ¹⁹For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

³⁻¹So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ²We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God’s service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.

For you know quite well that we are destined for them. ⁴In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

⁵For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: Investing in Christian Fellowship

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Song for the Nations

Responsive Litany (from Ephesians 5)

Pastor: Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, Just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

People: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light and find out what pleases the Lord.

Pastor: Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Unison: Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire

Musician: Yuta Sugan

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

Rosie, Linda's daughter, grieving
Brenda, for good health
Ed, for mobility, back pain
Nancy, health and sustaining grace
Judy C, full healing of her leg
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis
Raven, child with seizures
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill
College students, for continuing faith
Jennet family, illness and deaths
Linda S, breathing concerns
Janet Evans, confusion (in AZ)
Alicia, niece of Carolyn, cancer
Marie, employment and comfort
Bodnar grandson, arm fractures
Lochrie children—illness
Jen: healing ankle, father's chemo

In Need of Prayer

Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis
Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancer
Gladys, for restored strength and sustaining grace
Benita, improved blood counts and strength
Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer
Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving
Debbie, Pam's friend, improved, more chemo
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
Sarah, for strength to carry her load
Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer
Family of Rusty, dear friend of Ron I, sudden death
Willy, 76, needs Jesus
Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer.
Sue, nodules in lungs, diagnosis and treatment
Donna's family, 10-year-old Gage, and Dan, recent heart surgery.

Nick and Larissa, foster care of children, adjustments.

General Fund giving this week: \$3,015
Total giving to date in Nov: \$8,311

As the Middle Eastern war continues, it has spilled over to Lebanon. Please pray for Robbie and Joyce who are involved in children and family work, feeding children and providing care so parents can work.

Thank you for your giving to the Lord.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1. What is your only comfort in life and death? **A.** That I am not my own but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. In fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready to live for him.

Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible study continues to meet every Tuesday at 10 am at the church. The current study is the book of Second Corinthians. For more information, you may speak to Judy Dellinger.