



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

DECEMBER 12, 2021
The Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

† Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2,4-6)

Pastor: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

People: The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

People: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Unison: Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

† Hymn: Love Has Come!

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Lighting the Third Advent Candle

The Shepherd's Candle
Kent & Benita Puzzuoli

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10 Responsive

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom:
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.**

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵**Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.**

⁶**Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.**

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸**And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.**

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

**But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.**

**They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.**

**Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

Luke 1: 26-38 Responsive

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸**The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”**

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴**“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”**

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.**

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: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Offertory

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
See, Amid the Winter's Snow

arr: Brian Buda

† 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

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Luke 1:39-56 Responsive

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

⁵⁶**Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.**

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

Sermon: Humble & Joyful Preparations for the King
John Bayon, Guest Speaker

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

Responsive Litany (Romans 15:8-10,12,13)

Leader: For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

People: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.”

Leader: Again, it says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

People: And again, Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.”

Unison: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

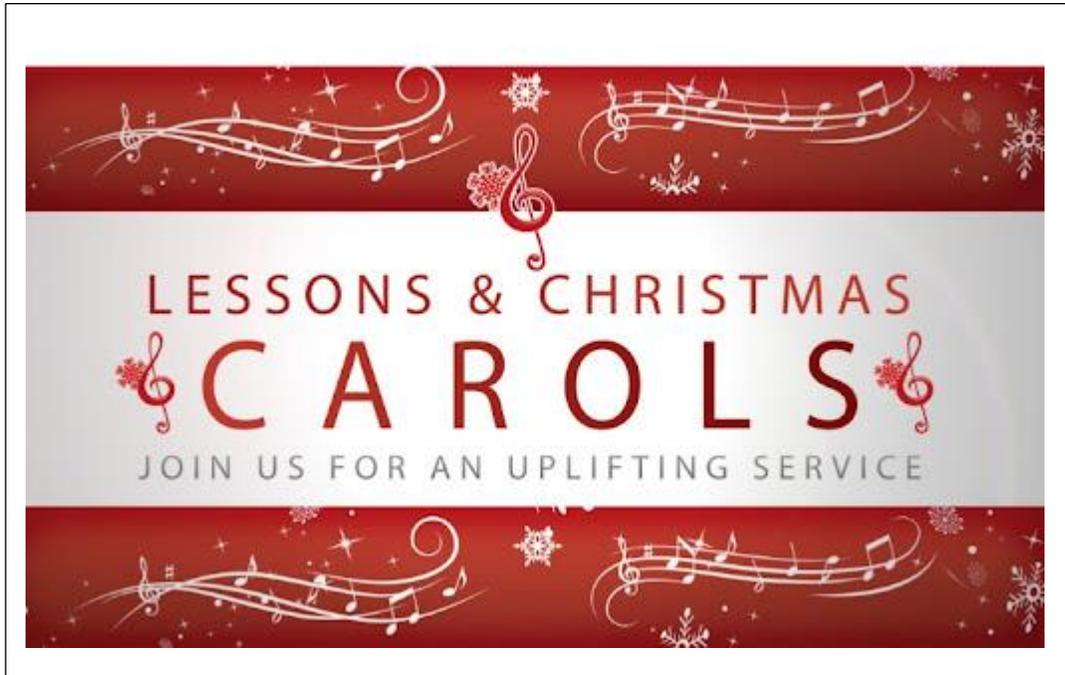
Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music

Today is the final day to order poinsettias for the Sanctuary. Cost is \$10. See Donna Whiting or call the office.



Christmas Eve at 4 pm

Ladies Bible study will resume on January 4, 2022 at 10:00, with the study of Joshua. If you would like to participate, call Elaine Clay or Judy Dellinger.

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>In Need of Prayer Cheri Boone, knee replacement, 12/6 Sue Work Cheryl Stevenson Alberta Weaver, home Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney Jen Freese, training dog, bipolar study Don Rende's brother, Bob, nephew Chris David, friend of Cindy Taaffee Gary, Marion, Dan, friends of L.Szczepanek Linda Szczepanek, health, grief Dot, friend of Cheri Boone Carmen, & Grace injuries, per Gail N. Ed Steele for mobility, back pain Kelly Vincent, daughter of Bert Schwab The Metzner Family, many stressors, and multiple Covid illnesses Al Lindsay, chemotherapy for lung cancer Norman, neighbor of Linda S, with cancer Kelly's friends, Tammy & Kevin, grieving Community of Oxford, MI for healing</p>	<p>In Need of Prayer Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving Tim, brother of Lucy McGuire, Covid/pneumonia Alanna, friend of Bruce Terras, delicate surgery 12/7 Judy Carr, foot, plus sister's long term care decisions Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer Christopher, son of Ray Boone, heart Janet Evans, grieving Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months Katalee Deighton, lymphoma Darlene Little, heart health. Nancy, sister of John Dellinger Nancy, friend of Doaks, recurrence of cancer John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger Children and teachers in schools, anxiety & fears Rose, friend of Boones, Covid complications First Responders & Border Patrol for safety & wisdom Family of Cyndi Taffee's friend, sudden loss of loved one Cassandra, friend of Elaine, cancer Family of 15 y/o Talon, death of cancer Pastor Jimmy's journey home on the 15th and 16th</p>
<p>Audio Sermons can be heard on the church website: http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org</p>	<p>Our sympathy to the Metzner family on the unexpected death this past week of Carol's sister.</p>
<p>Monthly need: \$17,083.00 Giving to general fund last week: \$5,019 Giving to general fund in Dec: \$5,019 Giving to mortgage in Dec: \$3,150</p>	<p>Our Military: Metzner's grandson; and Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq. <i>William, co-worker of Krystal Murphy, recently deployed overseas.</i></p>

Heidelberg Catechism Q 43. What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross? **A.** Through Christ's death our old selves were crucified, put to death and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to him.