



Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Copyright 2016 Timothy R. Botts | Eyekons



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

DECEMBER 19, 2021
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Gathering Song: Away in a Manger

† Call to Worship (Psalm 28:6-9 ESV)

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

People: The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped.

Pastor: My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

People: The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Unison: O, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

† Hymn: Joy to the World

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

The Angels' Candle
Chester and Scott Doak

First Scripture Readings

Micah 5:2-5a Responsive

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ **Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.**

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ **And he will be our peace**

Luke 1:46b-55 Responsive

^{46b} “My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for 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.

⁵⁰ **His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.**
⁵¹ **He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.**

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

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

⁵⁴ **He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”**

⁹ Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 2:8-20 Responsive

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Run with the Shepherds

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: How Great Our Joy!

Responsive Litany (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Unison: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music



Be sure to come and bring your family for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service. Hear the holy scriptures read and sing the carols of Christmas in praise to our Savior. It begins at 4 pm.

The 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

In Need of Prayer

Sue Work
 Cheryl Stevenson
 Alberta Weaver, home
 Regina Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
 Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney
 Jen Freese, training therapy dog, illness
 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
 Dan, friend of Chet Doak
 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
 Janet Evans, recent bereavement

In Need of Prayer

Lucy McGuire's brother, Covid & Pneumonia
 Richard Abraham, son-in-law of Hartigs, improving
 Judy Carr, foot, plus sister's long term care decisions
 Margaret, Wilsons' friend, brain tumor
 Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, a young mom, cancer
 Christopher, son of Ray Boone, heart
 Keely, daughter of Linda Johnson, husband at sea 6 months
 Gail Nastwold, for health, wound healing
 Katalee Deighton, lymphoma
 Darlene Little, heart health.
 Nancy, friend of Doaks, recurrence of cancer
 John, friend of Cindy Taaffee, pancreatic cancer
 Liz, granddaughter of Carolyn Krueger
 Scott MacKenzie, son of Jim & Patty MacKenzie
 Suzanne, friend of Clay family, for wholeness
 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
 People in South, victims of massibe tornado

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

Our sympathy to the Metzner family, on the recent unexpected death of Carol's sister.

Monthly need: \$17,083.00
Giving to general fund 12/6: \$5,019
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Giving to mortgage in Dec: \$3,150
No offering 12/12/21. weather

Our Military: Metzner's grandson; and Bryan, relative of Teresa Lisowski, deployed to Iraq. *William, co-worker of Krystal Murphy, recently deployed overseas.*

Heidelberg Catechism Q 44. Why does the creed add, "He descended into hell? **A.** To assure me in times of personal crisis and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, especially on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from the anguish and torment of hell.