



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

DECEMBER 27, 2020

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

† **Gathering Hymn: See Amid the Winter's Snow**
Hymn of the Month

† **Call to Worship** (Psalm 28:6-9 ESV)

Leader: 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.

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

† **Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old**

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

Lighting the Final Advent Candle

The Christ Candle

Michael & April Barrett

First Scripture Readings

(Reader: Pam Paglino)

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Responsive

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.

**For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

**¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.**

²The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

**³You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

Psalm 148 Responsive

¹ Praise the LORD.

**Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.**

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

**³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.**

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies,

**⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created,**

**⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
¹² young men and women,
old men and children.

¹³ **Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the LORD.

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 Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Offertory

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Go Tell It on the Mountain
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

arr: Joel Raney

† 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: Pam Paglino)

Luke 2:22-40 Responsive

²²When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”, ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵**Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.**

²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³**The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.**

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶**There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.**

³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹**When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.**

Galatians 4:4-7 Unison

⁴**But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.**

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: The Content of Paul's First Christmas Card

Guest Speaker: Rev. Greg Hands

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

† Responsive Litany (from Romans 5)

Leader: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Leader: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Unison: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Dr. Eric Roth, Director of Music

Our Guest Speaker

We welcome to our pulpit today Reverend Greg Hands who is accompanied by his wife Joyce. Reverend Hands is retired from his last pastorate of 33 years at the Woodhaven Bible Church in Woodhaven, Michigan. Before taking that pastorate, he served full time on the faculty at Detroit Bible College (later known as William Tyndale College) for seven years. He graduated with his Masters of Theology as cum laude from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1977, where he majored in Bible exposition. He loves to preach and teach the Scriptures, and in retirement, leads a weekly Bible study in his home. He guest preaches almost every Sunday in various pulpits in Michigan.

He and Joyce have two married daughters and two young grandchildren.

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

Brenda Cook
Jen Freese, health, Maya's health,
and training of new service dog
Priscilla Smith, Pat's Grad's sister
Dennis & Ellen Dorman
Cindy Bemis
Kent's sister Lori
George Donoian and family
Gail Nastwold
Sally Freese, shingles pain
Lyndsay, daughter of the Sharpes
Don Rende's brother, Bob
David, friend of Cindy Taaffee
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
Yvonne Ray, assisted living
Mark, cousin of Elaine Clay
Tina, Pastor McGuire's niece

Alanna, daughter of Bruce Terras's manager. Auto accident, severe injuries
CeCe, friend of Elaine Clay, lupus and cancer
Brenda's sister, healing from eye surgery
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
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
Jim, Kelly Rende's good friend. Loss of mother
Kelly Rende, Linda Szczepanek, Sam Hutson, and Dormans: grief
Extended family of the Boone's with Covid
Kristen, Clay family friend, for successful pregnancy
Elaine's god-daughter, complications of pregnancy

Healthcare Workers: Ray Johnson, Angie O'Dell, Karen Isles, Krystal Murphy—for protection from Covid; strength for the long hours, and opportunities for sharing Christ.

Please also pray for people who are struggling over mental health issues, particularly brought on by the stresses of Covid-19, unemployment, etc.

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

Our Military; Metzners' grandson Bryan; and 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.

Monthly need: \$17,083.00

Giving to general fund last week: \$4,424
Giving to general fund in Dec: \$14,838
Giving to mortgage in December: \$5,550

Our sympathy to the family of Carolyn Schmierer, who died on December 18, 2020

Heidelberg Catechism: Q 122. What does the first request mean? A. *Hallowed be thy name means*, help us to really know you, to bless, worship, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy and truth.

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

Merry Christmas

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Note: There has been a concern expressed during this Covid-19 surge that some people are not using their masks correctly. For the sake of your brothers and sisters, please cover your mouth and nose. It is another way to love one another.

It is not too late for your year-end giving, if that is your custom. Please indicate if you want it to be posted to the general fund or toward the mortgage. For tax credit your gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2020. In January we will send your annual giving statement.

The Ladies' Bible Study will meet again, practicing social distancing, on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. A new study of *2 Peter and Jude* will begin January 5, 2021. Contact Judy Dellinger for details. In addition, if you are unable to attend the in-person study, Elaine Clay is leading the same study, via Zoom, Wednesday afternoons. If you want to join the group, contact Elaine.

Lost & Found: Did you misplace your light jacket this fall? It appears to belong to a gentleman, is navy blue, Columbia brand, size large. You will find it hanging in the narthex.