

To Our Visitors

We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex.

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

Prayer needs

Brenda and co-worker Pat, very long work hours, for sustaining grace
Rob, homeless in FL, depressed
Karen's sister's son, John, Down's, for gov't compassion for insurance, etc.
Rosie, Linda's daughter, grieving
Ed, for mobility with less pain
Jen, for healing of ankle, mobility
Emilee, for employment
Marcus Liew, for restoration of vision
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Lydia, teen and family, emotional health
Justin, wisdom re: job
Guidance re: new website host
Rev. Shiv for encouragement
Judy Carr's sister-in-law, near death-
Linda S: for improved health, joy

Prayer needs

Joshua, Navy, rough seas. Safely home to family in HI.
Benita, for continued normal blood counts
Glad, home, getting stronger
Bunny for continued strength
Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis
Lance and Sue, Isles family with cancers
Krystal's friend, Lolita, esophageal cancer
Sean's aunt, fresh grief, his uncle died recently
Noah, age 14, success in his work
Lisa, Pastor's niece, multiple cancers
Donna's family, Dan, heart surgery, slow recovery
Pastor Scott McKee
Former member, Judy V. and family in FL, recurrent cancer
Janet Evans, in AZ, deterioration in health
College students for continuing faith and clear witness
Pray for strength for caregivers in families of the ill
Pray for our military as they serve in dangerous places
Andrew, son of Craig, deployed to Qatar
Rene, age 53, breast cancer
Father of Xavier, released from prison, for healthy relationship with his son.
Brenda's friend Erin, for faith in loss of her father

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Giving on Feb 18: \$3,995
Giving to date in Feb: \$11,370

Christian sympathy is extended to Senie and Jack Engebretson, in the death of her sister, Mary, on February 14.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 14. Can another creature—any at all—pay this debt for us?

A. No. To begin with, God will not punish another creature for man's guilt. Besides no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin and release others from it.



CHRIST
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Gathering Song: For the Beauty of the Earth (Page 8)

† Call to Worship (Psalm 89:1,2,5, 8,14)

Pastor: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

People: I will declare that your love stands firm forever; that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

Pastor: The heavens praise your wonders, LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

People: Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Unison: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

† Hymn: Let All Things Now Living (Pages 6-7)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings
Today's Reader: Bruce Terras
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.

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Matthew 22:34-40 Responsive

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

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: This is My Father's World (Page 9)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Fairest Lord Jesus

Pianist: Yuta Sugano

arr: Susan W. Henry

† 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.

Second Scripture Readings

James 1:19-25 Responsive

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

²¹ **Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.**

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

²³ **Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.**

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Philippians 1:1-25 Responsive

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons.

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ **I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ **And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.**

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

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For the Beauty of the Earth

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² 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! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ 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,

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Happy to be Different, Part 1

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

† Responsive Litany (1 John 3:1-3)

Pastor: See what great love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called the children of God. And that is what we are!

People: Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

Pastor: But we know when Christ appears, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.

Unison: All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

Let All Things Now Living-1

Let All Things Now Living-2