

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, possible job loss. And for brother, Bernard with health issues
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Justin, discernment re: job location
Pastor Scott McKee, new suffering
Premature twins, about 36 weeks now, that they will thrive, friends of Bodnar's
All who hate their neighbors, to be restrained.
Shiv for employment in Seattle
Leona, 5th grader, for confidence
Elder Jack E, severe vision problems
Senie E, severe pain in back
Our children who are learning about Jesus at home and in Sunday School.
Our children's Sunday school teachers
Claudine Sordyl's uncle, Richard
Ellen Dorman, low iron, treatment

Prayer need

Patty Bodnar, continued breathing problems
Chet Doak, for infection and respiratory improvement
Carolyn Krueger, moved to senior facility
Mike Mathers, adjusting to care facility, Annette for comfort
Bunny, for continued strength
Lance, liver failure, relative of Isles family
Krystal's friend, Lolita, esophageal cancer
Lisa, Pastor's niece, multiple cancers
Pray for strength for caregivers in families of the ill
Pray for our military as they serve in dangerous places
Rene, age 53, breast cancer, receiving chemo
Family (3 members) of Carolyn K, health issues
Johnny, injury in a fall, not doing well, and wife, Betty
Marie, respect in her new job
Emilee for a job, and for several family members' health
Patrick's daughter, Marie, hospitalized, alcoholism
Hester Family, grief
For Alan whose brother recently committed suicide
Diane, friend of Cheri, fall with injury,
Karen's aunt Rose, age 87, a fall and hip fracture

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Giving on July 14: \$2,525
Giving to date in July \$6,875

Pray for our elderly in care facilities, for good care, and for adjustment to the changes: Bunny, Mike M, and Carolyn K. If you want to send a card, call the church office for addresses.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 32. But why are you called a Christian? **A.** Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Welcome to Worship

July 21 2024

Gathering Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness (page 7)

†Call to Worship (Psalm 130: a Psalm of Ascent)

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; LORD hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

People: If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, LORD, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence serve you.

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Unison: Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

† Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

†Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Today's Reader: Sean Murphy

Matthew 27:45-56 Responsive

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* (which means *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*).

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

Luke 24:39-53 Responsive

³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

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Let All Things Now Living—1

⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

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: **Let All Things Now Living** (page 10-11)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: “Because He Lives”

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.

Second Scripture Readings

Romans 3:19-31 Responsive

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. >>>>>

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Responsive

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written:

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.**

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

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Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ **But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.**

²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

³⁰ **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.** ³¹ **Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”**

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: The Cross of Christ

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him (page 9)

Responsive Litany (from Ephesians 2)

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Pastor: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.

People: **We were by nature deserving of wrath.**

Pastor: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

People: **And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**

Unison: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Musician: Yuta Sugano