

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
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
Cheri's friend, Nancy, in hospice
Elaine's Aunt, age 90, fall

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Giving on July on July 21: \$5,840
Giving to date in July: \$12,715

Heidelberg Catechism. Q. 33. Why is he called God's "only begotten Son" when we also are God's children?

A. Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God—adopted by grace through Christ.

Prayer need

Patty Bodnar, continued breathing problems
Chet Doak, for infection and respiratory improvement
Carolyn Krueger, moved to senior facility
Mike Mathers, deteriorating, Annette for comfort, peace
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
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, 2 in hospital
For Alan, brother recently committed suicide
Diane, friend of Cheri, fall with injury,
Karen's aunt Rose, age 87, a fall and hip fracture
Kadyjah's family, for peace
Pam's father, Nathan, in pain, for surgery on 7/30

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 office for addresses.



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 4837
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
248-719-7787

Welcome to Worship

July 28, 2024

Gathering Song : A Mighty Fortress (page 7)

†Call to Worship (Psalm 46:1,2,4-7)

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

People: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Unison: The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

† Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

†Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings
Today's Reader: Sue Work
Romans 9:1-24 Responsive

¹I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—
²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were
cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴the people of
Israel.

**Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the
law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is
traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.**

⁶It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are
Israel. ⁷Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary,
"It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

**⁸In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the
children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. ⁹For this was how the
promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."**

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father-
Isaac. ¹¹Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's
purpose in election might stand: ¹²not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older
will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

**¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses, I will have
mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."**

¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷For Scripture
says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you
and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸Therefore God has mercy on whom
he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

**¹⁹One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his
will?" ²⁰But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to
the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" ²¹Does not the potter have the
right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for
common use?**

²²What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with
great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? ²³What if he did this to
make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in ad-
vance for glory— ²⁴even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the
Gentiles?

Of Interest to our Congregation

Beginning next Sunday, members can participate in the identification of persons who
may be nominated for Elders, Deacons and Trustee for the next years.

These roles are important to the oversight and function of our church in the upcoming
years. Pray that God will lead qualified people to serve in these positions.

Nominations are made by filling out a form, only after gaining agreement with the
nominee. Then the form is given to the pastor or a current elder.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Responsive

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

¹³ **And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.**

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 Worship the King (page 9)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: "Count Your Blessings"

arr: Yuta Sugano

Second Scripture Readings

I Am Not Skilled to Understand

John 6:35-47 Responsive

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

⁴³ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

1 Corinthians 1:25-31 Responsive

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

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

O Worship the King

Sermon: God's Choices

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† **Hymn: I Am Not Skilled to Understand** (page 10)

Responsive Litany (Romans 8:28-31)

Pastor: And we know that God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

People: For those God foreknew, he also predestined to become conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Pastor: And those whom he predestined, he also called;

People: and those whom he called, he also justified; those whom he justified, he also glorified.

Unison: What, then, shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers.

Pastor: Dr. James N, McGuire

Musician: Yuta Sugano

A Mighty Fortress

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee