CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
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Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
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Welcome to Worship

January 26, 2025

† Gathering Song: I Cannot Tell (Pages 6,7)

† Call to Worship (from Psalm 27)

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—-of whom shall I be afraid?

People: One thing I ask of the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Pastor: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

People: I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living

Unison: Wait for the LORD, be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

† Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns (Page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Reader: Carolyn Sharpe

2 Timothy 1:3-12 Responsive

[3] I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

[4] Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. [5] I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

[6] For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. [7] For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

[8] So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. [9] He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, [10] but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

[11] And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. [12] That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

Acts 2:22-36 Responsive

[22] "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. [23] This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

[24] But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. [25] David said about him:

"'I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
[26] Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
[27] because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
[28] You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

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29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"'The Lord said to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand
35 until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

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: Christ the Lord is Risen Today (Page 9)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" **Musician: 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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Responsive

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Responsive

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.

But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: If the Resurrection of Jesus Is Not True
Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Because He Lives (Pages 10,11)

† Responsive Litany (Romans 8:31-34)

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

People: He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Pastor: Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Unison: Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God, and is also interceding for us.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer

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

Toddler Hudson, brain tumor
Donna Whiting, recent surgery
Art, by-pass surgery success
Joyce, for dialysis-access surgery
Maureen, new treatment for cancer
Patty Bodnar, health
Jenn, improved health, writing book
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Pastor Scott McKee
Elder Jack E, improving eyesight
Senie E, Pain in back/legs
Our children, who are learning about Jesus at home and in Sunday School
Claudine's uncle, Richard, improving
Patty B's friend Patricia, brain cancer
Foster child, Julio, for love and behavior
Rosie, Linda's daughter with knee injury
Anna, kidney health, pain relief
Jen's friend's son, Everett, age 14
Cheryl Stevenson, Covid
Shiri, friend of Jen, traveling from Israel

Prayer needs

Benita, Pray for hearing, and strength in Rehab
Bunny, for continued strength
Bernard, Brenda's brother, head injury in fall on ice
Brother-in-law of Cheri and Ray Boone
Pray for our military as they serve in dangerous places
Sue Work, for continued lung improvement
Lisa, Pastor's niece, multiple cancers
Johnny, injury in a fall, not doing well, and wife, Betty
Emilee for a job, and for several family members' health
Lila's husband, David, for mercies, in hospice care.
Diane, friend of Cheri, fall with injury
Friend of Bruce's co-worker, Elaine, stage 3 ovarian cancer
Praise God for answered prayers, for jobs for Tarpinian sons
Pray for Francisco to be able to walk again

For war to cease in Syria and Lebanon, for mission safety

Tammi, dealing with Father's dementia

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Giving last week: $3,911
Giving so far this month: $12,775

Let us pray for the CA wild fire victims who have lost homes, churches, schools, businesses, and are displaced.

Also the NC victims of the hurricane and still need prayer as they try to recover for the devastation there.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q 57: How does "The Resurrection of the Body" comfort you? A. Not only my soul will be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ will be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.