

To our Visitors

We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus; may you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex, and we welcome you for join us for snacks.

Pray always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In Need of Prayer

Rosie, Linda's daughter, deep grieving
Brenda, for health and demanding job
Pat, Brenda's co-worker, 12 hour days
Ed, for mobility, back pain
Nancy, health and sustaining grace
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill
College students, for continuing faith
Linda S, breathing concerns
Janet Evans, confusion (in AZ)
Marie, employment and comfort
Donna's family, Dan, recent heart surgery
Jen, healing of ankle, new surgery, pain
Sue Rojek, complications after eye surg.
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Homeless, for available shelters
Young Mark T, hockey injury
Nancy, Bunny's daughter, shingles

In Need of Prayer

Bunny Rector, recent fall with injuries, weakness
Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis
Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancer
Glad, in rehab, pray for increased strength
Benita, prayer for normal blood counts, and encouragement
Sean's uncle has died, pray for his widow, fresh grief
Judy V. and family in Florida
Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family
Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family
Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer
Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer
Mary, friend of Karen, back surgery, lives alone
Shiv, for rest and peace
Noah, age 14, grandson of Isles, extended family conflict
Ray Boone, painful treatment to face
Emilee, needs job
Patty and Andy, Covid
Marcus Liew, restoration of his vision
Our Military: Andrew, son of Craig M, deployed to Qatar

Giving: January 7: \$1,945

Please continue to pray for the ministries of Tim North and Rob & Joyce Hamd in areas being threatened by war. Pray for their safety, for ways to continue to impact the people near them with the Gospel.

Heidelberg Catechism Q 9. But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in his law what man is unable to do?

A. No, God created man with the ability to keep the law. Man, however, tempted by the devil, in reckless disobedience, robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.



CHRIST

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JANUARY 21, 2024

Gathering Song: Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed (bulletin page 6)

† Call to Worship (from Psalm 119)

Pastor: May my cry come before you, LORD; give me understanding according to your word.

People: May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.

Pastor: May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.

People: May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

Pastor: I long for your salvation, LORD, and your law gives me delight.

Unison: Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.

† Hymn: I Sing the Mighty Power of God (page 7)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Today's Reader: Justin Isles

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 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.**

Romans 9:6-25 Responsive

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

⁸ **In 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. ⁹ For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."**

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

¹⁴ **What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses,**

**“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”**

Tuesday Bible Study



This Bible study group has resumed meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 o'clock They are studying the book of Daniel. If you would like to join the study, please call Judy Dellinger at 734-386-6449.



We are happy to welcome Mark and Melinda Tarpinian as new members to our church. Be sure to extend a friendly hello and welcome.

Notes and Prayer Reminders

¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For 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." ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

¹⁹ **One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?"** ²⁰ **But 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?'"** ²¹ **Does 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?**

²² What 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? ²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As he says in Hosea:

**"I will call them "my people" who are not my people;
and I will call her "my loved one" who is not my loved one."**

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 every shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.

† Hymn: Join All the Glorious Names

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: "Lift High the Lord, Our Banner, Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" arr: M. Hayes
Yuta Sugano, Pianist.

† 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

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.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 Responsive

¹³ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Join All the Glorious Names

Sermon: Chosen in Love

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd (page 10)

† Responsive Litany (2 Corinthians 4:4-6, 18)

Pastor: The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

People: For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Unison: So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

I Sing the Mighty Power of God