CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 48375
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
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Welcome to Worship

January 5, 2025

Epiphany

Gathering Song: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (Pages 8-9)

† Call to Worship (Psalm 108:1,3-5)

Pastor: My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

People: I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples,

Pastor: for great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies..

Unison: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let you glory be over all the earth.

† Once in Royal David's City (Page 7)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Reader: Bruce Terras

Isaiah 60:1-6 Responsive

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
5 Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Psalm 72:1-14 Responsive

1 Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
2 May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.

3 May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
4 May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.

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5 May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
6 May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
7 In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

8 May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
9 May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.
10 May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.
11 May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.

12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
13 He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
14 He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

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.

† We Three Kings (Page 10)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" **Musician: Yuta Sugano**

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above yo heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Ephesians 3:1-12 Responsive

[1] For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

[2] Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,[3] that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

[4] In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5] which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

[6] This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

[7] I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. [8] Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, [9] and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

[10] His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, [11] according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. [12] In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Matthew 2:1-12 Responsive

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem [2] and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." >>>>>>

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'[a]"

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Revealing of Jesus to the Gentiles
Dr. James N. McGuire

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
See insert

Pastoral Prayer

† Go, Tell it on the Mountain
See Insert

Closing Litany (from Colossians 1)

Pastor: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. All things have been created through him and for him.

People: He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Pastor: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

People: Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior,

Pastor: But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body though death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

Unison: if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Once in Royal David's City

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

Debbie Terras, Covid
Brenda, for job security
Maureen, new treatment for cancer
Patty Bodnar, health
Jenn, for blood pressure
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Pastor Scott McKee
Elder Jack E, improving eyesight
Senie E, responding to treatment
Additional treatment this week
Our children, who are learning about Jesus at home and in Sunday School
Claudine Sordyl's uncle, Richard
Sister of Sue Dial
Justin, out of state employment
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

Prayer need

Benita, whose health is fragile
Louis Clay, eye pain
Bunny, for continued strength
Pray for our military as they serve in dangerous places
Sue Work, for continued 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
Kevin, laid off, has new job, involves move back to MI
Praise God for answered prayers, for jobs for Tarpinian sons
Pray for April, for foot healing after car accident

Pray for Francisco to be able to walk again

Pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially at this time of year.

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Giving December 22: $5,697
December giving to date: $17,529

Heidelberg Catechism Q 54. What do you believe concerning "The Holy Catholic Church"?
A. I believe that the Son of God, through the Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life, and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.