



New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
July 2, 2023                      10:00am Service



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# The Worship of God

July 2, 2023 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*James Cox offers this insight about luck: In June, as I walked along the main street in Chinatown in San Francisco, I came upon a little shop that had the image of a Laughing Buddha sitting at the entrance. Beside it was a sign that read – “For wisdom, rub my head. For good luck, rub my belly.” I then closely examined the Laughing Buddha. I looked at the tummy – the focus of good luck – and saw that almost all of the paint was worn off. Next, I looked at the head – the focus of wisdom, and saw that the paint there looked as if no one had ever touched it.” When do you believe is more important – luck or wisdom? How does your choice relate to the providence of God?*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- Based on Psalm 89 from *The Message*

L: Your love, God, is our song, and we will sing it!

**P: We will forever tell everyone how faithful you are.**

L: We will never quit telling the story of your love;

**P: How you built the cosmos and guaranteed everything in it.**

L: Your love has always been our lives' foundation.

**P: Your fidelity has been the roof over our world.**

L: God, let the cosmos praise your wonderful ways;

**P: The choir of holy angels sing anthems to your faithful ways.**

L: If we search high and low, scan skies and land,

**P: We'll find nothing and no one quite like you, God.**

L: All we are and have we owe to you.

**P: Holy God of Israel, you are our King!**

## Hymn # 476

## O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

1-O worship the King, all glorious above!  
 O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
 Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
 Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2-O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
 Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
 The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
 And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

3-The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
 Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;  
 Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
 And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4-Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
 It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.



## Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, time and again you make it clear that the sacrifice you desire from us is a pure and contrite heart, a heart broken by the recognition of our sin. Yet time and again, we find it easier to go through the motions of religiosity rather than humble ourselves before you. It's more comfortable to sit in the pew than respond to your call to love the unlovely. It's easier to complain about differences than work for reconciliation. It's less threatening to put a check in the offering plate than to actually serve a meal at the soup kitchen. Forgiveness is hard, and we prefer t hold on to our disappointments and hurts. Forgive us, merciful Savior. Forgive our failures, our pettiness, our fear, our selfishness. Forgive us for choosing the easy way rather than the way of the cross. Hear our desire for mercy, our hope for restoration and our longing to be more like Jesus in whose name we pray. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.**



## Assurance of Pardon

**L:** From the cross, Jesus cried, "Forgive them, Father, for they do not know what they are doing."

**P:** *In giving his life, Christ assured our pardon.*

**L:** Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel-

**P:** *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message

#### First Lesson

Romans 6: 12-23

Slaves of Righteousness

Lay Leader



*Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

*What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads*

*to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.*

*When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord. **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

#### Second Lesson

Genesis 22: 1-14

God Tests Abraham

Carol

*After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of*



his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*Saved by the Lamb*

## Responding to the Word

**Hymn # 281**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

1-Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more,  
Feed me till I want no more.

2-Open now the crystal fountain;  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey though;  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield,  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

3-When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

## The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

#### The Celebration of Our Gifts

*Divine Savior, we cannot buy the salvation you freely give. Our offerings can help spread the Good News, in word and work, in this place and every place as your people fulfill the commission given by Christ. Guide us in our ministry that we might faithfully fulfill our calling. Amen.*

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

#### The Invitation

#### The Prayer of Consecration

#### The Words of Institution

#### The Sharing of the Elements

#### The Prayer of Thanksgiving



## Going Out to Serve

#### Hymn # 210

#### *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*1-Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*2-Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*3-A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*4-Time, like an ever rolling stream, soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*



**Blessing**

L: Friends, follow the example of Abraham who faithfully answered God's call.

**P: *We will listen and obey whatever God asks of us.***

L: Don't waste your time strategizing how to be lucky.

**P: *We will believe in the love and providence of God and trust that God will care for us.***

L: And may the blessings of God ...



**Response**        *He is Lord – He is Lord. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*