



New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
April 3, 2022 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE  
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# The Worship of God

## April 3, 2022 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader:

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...

*Our gospel lesson today centers around a meal at the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with a costly perfumed ointment, and she is criticized for it. Dinner guests whine about how much it costs, thinking she was wasteful, or perhaps they whined because they believed her to be immoral. In a sense, Mary was anointing Jesus, to prepare him for his burial. Do you wonder why the dinner guests couldn't appreciate the gracious, loving act she performed? Were they jealous that they hadn't shown Jesus the same level of respect?*



## Generous Giving

*Transforming our giving in response to God's generosity*

*Think about how often, in the church, someone may do a kind act or a noble gesture - something that involves self-sacrifice, like a generous contribution, and yet, others whine or mealy-mouth those acts. Maybe it's a gift that isn't as large as what another person gives. Or, maybe it's a contribution that is unusual. Maybe it's a form of service that others might not consider important. Regardless, we should all be thankful for the many different ways in which disciples show their love for God, and how they feel moved to contribute to the life and mission of the church. May we increasingly feel thankful for the varied ways God has provided for us, and touched our lives, and give thanks when ANYONE feels moved to generously respond to God's gracious love.*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: Remember not the former things, nor dwell on the things of old, for the Lord is doing a *NEW* thing.
- P: *Let us press on to make God's goal our own, letting go of whatever lies behind, and straining toward what lies ahead.***
- L: As it was in the beginning,
- P: *Is now and ever shall be -***
- A: *World without end!***

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 through;  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield,  
Be thou still my strength and shield.*

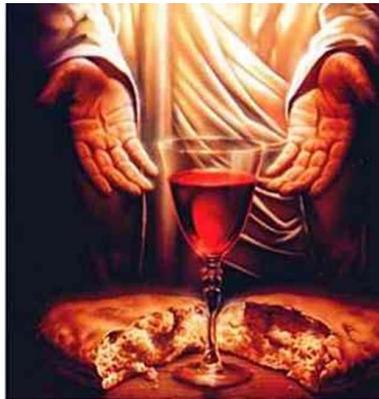
3- When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
 Bid my anxious fears subside;  
 Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
 Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
 Songs of praises, songs of praises  
 I will ever give to thee,  
 I will ever give to thee.

### Prayer of Confession

God of all seasons, we confess that we would rather live in the glorious days of the past, rather than risk the uncertain outcome of the future. We would prefer to leap ahead to the Day of Resurrection on Easter, rather than undergo our share of the suffering Christ endured on our behalf. Forgive our emphasis on revering the past and its traditions, our zeal for being honored ourselves, and our reluctance to perform either unnoticed or unappreciated acts of service for you. Set our minds on Christ, who through suffering and humiliation, reconciled us to you and one another. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

## Come To The Lord's Table



L: Hear the Good News: With the twelve, we are invited to eat and drink at our Lord's table in the Kingdom of God, and receive God's love and forgiveness.

**P: From east and west, from north and south, God calls us to gather together, thus forming the Body of Christ.**

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

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

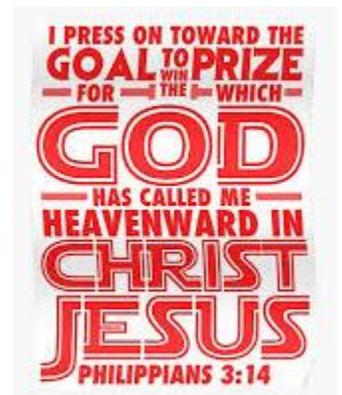
## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson** *Philippians 3: 4b-14* *Paul's Confidence in the Flesh* Lay Leader:

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

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

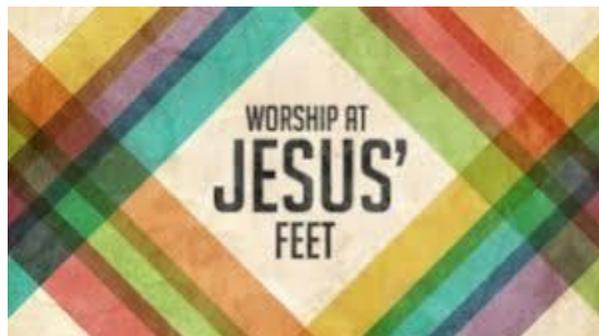
## Special Music

### Second Lesson

*Mary Anoints Jesus*

*John 12: 1-8*

*Carol*



Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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

## Sermon

*Filled With a Holy Fragrance*

# Responding to the Word

## Hymn # 400

*When We Are Living*

*1-When we are living,  
It is in Christ Jesus,  
And when we're dying,  
It is in the Lord.  
Both in our living  
And in our dying,  
We belong to God,  
We belong to God.*

*3-Mid times of sorrow,  
And in times of pain,  
When sensing beauty,  
Or in love's embrace,  
Whether we suffer,  
Or sing rejoicing,  
We belong to God.  
We belong to God.*

*2-Through all our living,  
We our fruits must give.  
Good works of service  
Are for offering.  
When we are giving,  
Or when receiving,  
We belong to God.  
We belong to God.*

*4-Across this wide world,  
We shall always find  
Those who are crying  
With no peace of mind,  
But when we help them,  
Or when we feed them,  
We belong to God.  
We belong to God.*

## Litany of Faith

- L: Let the feet of Christ, our Savior, be anointed with perfume, and let the air be filled with its wonderful fragrance.
- P: *As Christ washed our feet with water and dried them with a towel, we shall anoint his feet with costly, fragrant perfume, and wipe them with our hair.***
- L: We shall anoint the feet of wanderers and pilgrims, soothing the feet of those who have known no rest, and who seek the truth.
- P: *We shall anoint the feet of the refugees of the earth, welcoming those who have no home.***
- L: We shall anoint the feet of adventurers, blessing those who blaze trails of hope.
- P: *We shall anoint the feet of the messengers whom God sends into the world, bearing words of peace and love.***
- A: *O let the feet of Christ be anointed, and let the world be filled with the holy fragrance of perfume.***

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

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime, I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

## The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

*+Prayer of Dedication: Generous God, too often we are wasteful with our time, talents and resources with which you have blessed us. We tend to lavish them on the things of this world – things that are temporary. But when it comes to that which is truly important in your eyes, such as our dedication to your church and its various ministries, our generosity wanes. Help us, O God, to be wise like Mary, and to be extravagant to point of seemingly being wasteful, when it comes to you and our service to you. Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

# Celebration of the Lord's Supper

## The Invitation and Prayer of Consecration

## The Words of Institution

## The Sharing of the Elements

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving



# Going Out to Serve

## Hymn # 84

## *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*1-In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.*

*3-When the sun of bliss is burning  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.*

*2-When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me:  
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.*

*4-Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joy that through all time abide.*

## Blessing

L: As you go forth today, be aware that you go into a world that understands only “I” and “ME” – that understands only the need to hoard and protect. Go forth into a world that needs to understand a God of extravagant generosity = a generosity so full and complete that it seems wasteful.

**P: *We know that Christ will encourage and enable us to be generous with our blessings, especially when they are done in his name, and for his purposes.***

L: Go forth to be generously wasteful in the name of Christ. And may the blessings .....

## 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.*

