

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**April 19, 2020**

**Worship Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE**

**(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)**

# The Worship of God

## (Bulletin to follow the YouTube online service)

### Welcome

#### Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

If you tell me Christian commitment is the kind of thing that has happened to you “once and for all,” like some kind of spiritual plastic surgery, I say, you’re either pulling the wool over your own eyes, or trying to pull it over mine. Every morning you should wake up in your bed and ask yourself: “Can I believe it all again today?” No, better still, don’t ask it ‘till after you’ve read *The New York Times* – ‘till after you’ve studied that daily record of the world’s brokenness and corruption – which should always stand side-by-side with your Bible. Then ask yourself if you can believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ again for that particular day. If your answer’s always “Yes,” then you probably don’t know what believing means. At least five times out of ten, the answer should be “No,” because the “No” is as important as the “Yes” and maybe more so. The “No” is what proves you’re human in case you should ever doubt it. And then, if some morning, the answer happens to be really and truly “YES,” it should be a “Yes” that’s choked with confession and tears and...great laughter.

- Frederick Buechner, *The Return of Ansel Gibbs*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis

L: The Christian faith is founded on the resurrection of our Lord - an historic and spiritual reality.

**P: *We believe that Christ arose from the dead, and raises us to new life, which continues beyond the grave.***

L: We who have not seen Jesus, BELIEVE because the early church believed what they saw, and proclaimed it in each generation.

**P: *We believe what we have heard because, through the power of the Spirit, we are given the faith to believe, and the strength to live as faithful disciples.***

### Hymn of Praise

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace.  
Jesus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.  
He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean, Christ's blood availed for me.  
Hear him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy!  
My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of thy name.*

## Meeting God in the Word

**Prayer for Illumination** *Holy God, we give you thanks for your Word to guide our lives. We ask that you would open our minds and hearts to hear your message for us this day. Amen.*

### *Peter Addresses the Crowd*

*But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.*

*'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know - this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.*

*For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."*

*'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.*

### **Second Lesson**

John 20: 19-30

Carol Fisher

### *Jesus Appears to the Disciples*

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'*

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.*



## Responding to the Word

### Litany

- L: On the evening of the day, you are in an upper room with the doors bolted, and the shutters closed.
- P: They have killed our Lord. Now our teeth are chattering with terror. Will we be next? Will we share his fate?**
- L: And we hear these words from our Lord whom we believe was lost, "Peace be with you."
- P: And then we see him suddenly, standing among us. It IS he. He holds out his hands, and we see his wounds. He shows us his pierced side, and we turn our eyes away.**
- L: "Peace be with you. As God sent me, I send you" he says.
- P: Where is the anger we imagine he would have? Why doesn't he scold us or seek retribution? Why doesn't he battle against our souls?**
- L: "Receive the Spirit. Forgive the unforgivable."
- P: He counts us to be "worthy." We cannot understand or believe what he says.**
- A: Lord, help our unbelief.**

### Hymn

#### *Thine Is the Glory*

*Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment, Rolled the stone away, Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb; Lovingly he greets us, Scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness, Hymns of triumph sing, For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.*

*No more we doubt thee, Glorious Prince of life! Life is nought without thee; Aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors, Through thy deathless love; Bring us safe through Jordan,  
To thy home above.*

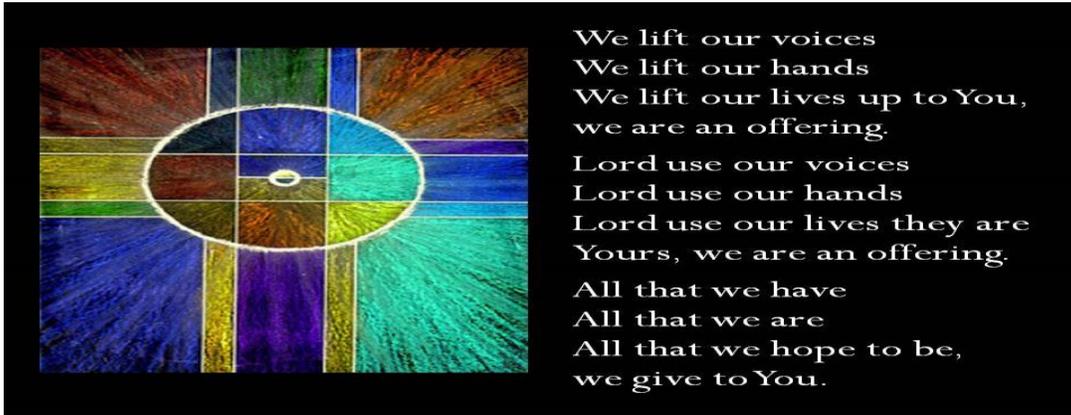
*Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.*

## Cares Chorus, 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

*God has provided for us in so many ways. All that we have comes from God. Giving of our resources is an essential part of discipleship. We feel grateful for our blessings and we share a good portion of them to do Christ's work. Since we cannot gather together for worship, we encourage each of you to send in your tithes and offerings so that the church can continue its ministry.*



## Going Out to Serve

### Blessing

L: Go out from this service to boldly live as God's Easter People.

**P: *We will claim Christ's resurrection power for the living of faithful lives.***

L: Remember that you are called to go and share the Good News, that others might experience new life in Christ as you do.

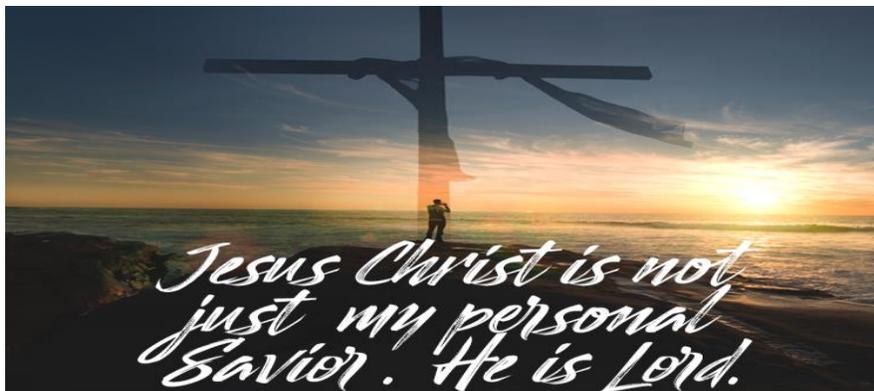
**P: *May our lives radiate with the love of Christ which we feel within.***

L: And may the blessings...

### Response

*He Is Lord*

*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.*



*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XVwxOfG1oY>

*Thine Is the Glory*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc46meReIRw>