



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
April 26, 2020**

Worship

Service



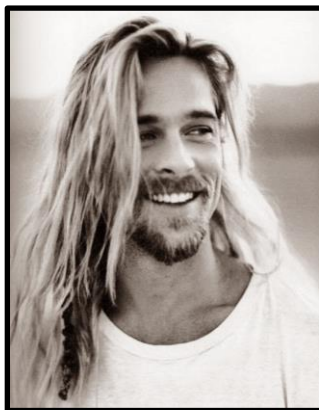
**1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE
19709**

The Worship of God

3rd Sunday of Easter April 26, 2020

(Bulletin to follow the YouTube online service)

Welcome



*If Jesus stood in
front of you today*

*would you recognize him,
leave your job, home and
comforts and follow him?*

Food for Thought.

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

What makes you think that you're any different than the two disciples on the Emmaus road? You think you'd recognize Jesus if you saw him? What if you made an appointment to meet Jesus down at the local Starbucks? "Yeah, come on down, we'll chat," Jesus says. So how would you identify him? Would you look for the guy in a toga? Somebody with long blond hair? Chances are, you'd have trouble, like most people, recognizing people you should know, but don't.

The disciples en route to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus. Would we? What did he look like? Many of us grew up seeing pictures of Jesus where he was depicted as being taller than the disciples, lean, with long flowing, light brown hair, and fair skin and light-colored eyes. Familiar though this image may be, it is inherently flawed for the culture where Jesus lived.

In the absence of any real evidence, our images of Jesus have been left to the imagination of artists, and surely the cultures of artists affect their image of Jesus. Perhaps it is good to surround ourselves with a variety of images which cause us to wonder and consider what Jesus looked like, both inside and out.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: We have come to set our faith and hope on God.

P: God hears our voices and supplications.

L: God is gracious and righteous and merciful.

P: What shall we return to God for all God's bounty to us?

L: We will lift up the cup of salvation,

P: And call on the name of the Most High.

L: Let us worship God.

*Hymn of Praise

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of the Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above, Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my son, Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Meeting God in the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

I Peter 1: 17-23

An Appeal for Holiness

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

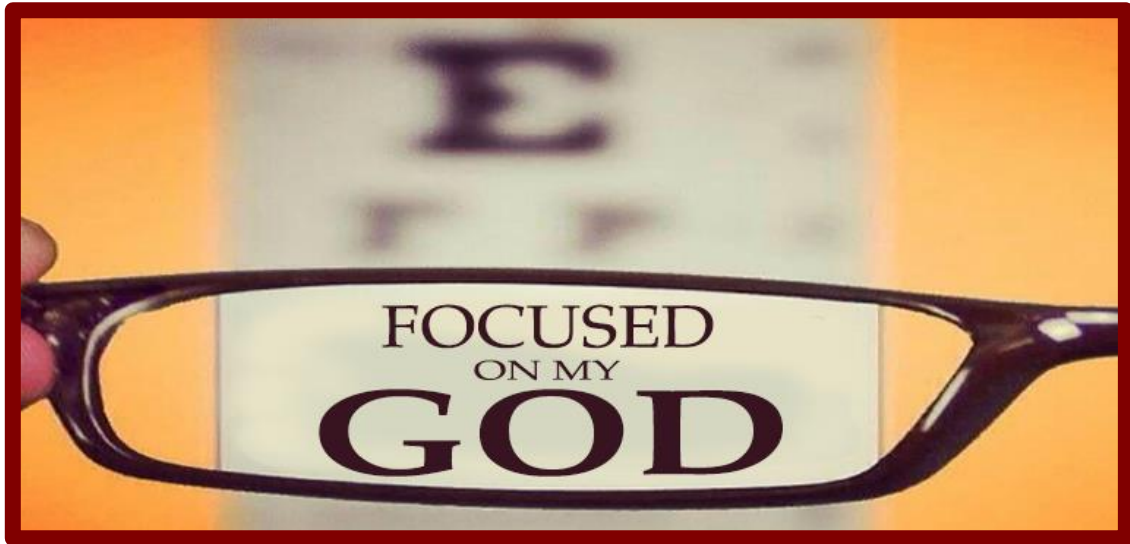
Second Lesson

Luke 24: 13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Open My Eyes That I May See

*Open my eyes, that I may see, Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key, That shall unclasp and set me free.*

*Silently now I wait for thee, Ready my God, thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear, Voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear.*

*Silently now I wait for thee, Ready my God, thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear, Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare, Love with thy children thus to share.*

*Silently now I wait for thee, Ready my God, thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Litany of Faith and Humility

L: God has baptized us into Christ Jesus, that we might walk in newness of life. And yet, we are daily tempted to tread the same old paths.

P: *From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.*

L: God has baptized us into Christ Jesus, that we might walk in newness of life. And yet, we are daily tempted to tread the same old paths.

P: *From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.*

L: The grace of God increases in proportion to our sin. So, we are tempted to enlarge our transgressions, that grace might abound.

P: *From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.*

L: We were not worthy of the love with which God in Christ redeemed us from sin. And yet, we are sorely tempted to reserve our love, only for those whom we believe deserve it.

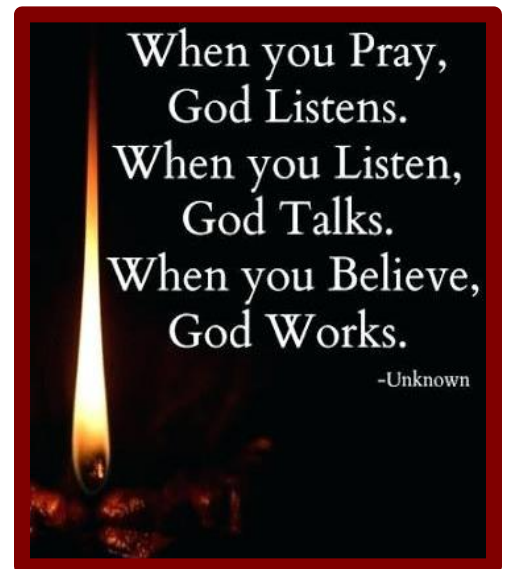
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus:

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

Closing Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#383

*My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine;
Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away, O let me from this day,
Be wholly thine!*

*May thy rich grace impart, Strength to my fainting heart, My zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee, Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!*

*While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs around me spread, Be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray,
From thee aside.*

*When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream, Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!*

Blessing

L: By God's great mercy, we have been given new birth,

P: *Into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

L: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

P: *Who lives and reigns in glory forevermore.*

L: And may the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit...

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.*

