

Be careful what you ask for because  
when you pray for rain, you have to  
deal with the mud as well.

Denzel Washington

quote fancy

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
August 15, 2021  
Worship Service



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# The Worship of God

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis

Sharing Our Vision

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



*Have you ever considered that you should be careful what you pray for? I've heard it said that we should be careful because we might just get what it is that we have prayed for, so we'd best be sure to carefully consider what it is that we send to God via prayer.*

*Perhaps you've heard the story that there was a school that was closed for several days because of a heavy snowstorm. For several days, the elementary school children thoroughly enjoyed their snow days, but when they finally*

*came back to school, one of their teachers asked the students if they had used their time away from school constructively. One of the little girls replied, "I sure did. I prayed for more snow!"*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: *And also with you.***

L: Praise the Lord! Give thanks for all his benefits.

**P: *We will give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts.***

\*Hymn of Praise

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

# 150

*Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
Praise is his gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!*

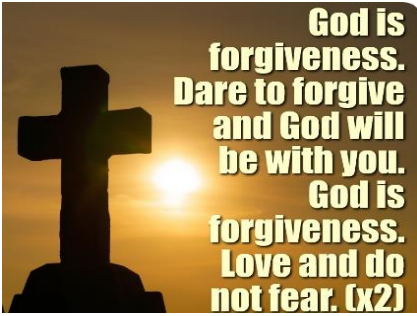
*Come, lift your heart on high; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praise fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;  
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!*

*Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen!*

## Prayer of Confession

*O God, we are foolish people. We want most what we cannot have; we seek pleasure in things that corrupt our bodies, minds and souls. We squander one of the most precious gifts you have given us – our time. O God, open our eyes that we may see your purpose for our lives that we might be good stewards of all with which you have blessed us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.*

## Assurance of Pardon



- L: Hear the Good News: God is love, and God's love was disclosed to us in the sending of the divine Son into the world to bring us life.
- P: ***The Son of God – Jesus Christ – is the remedy for our sins.***
- 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

*John 6: 47 – 59*

*Receiving Eternal Life*

*Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'*

*The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: *Thanks be to God.*

#### Second Lesson

*I Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14*

*The Death of David*

*Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.*

*Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'*

*It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

*Be Careful What You Pray For*

# Responding to the Word

## \*Hymn

*God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

#285



*God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,  
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.  
We, created in your image, would a true a reflection be  
Of your justice, grace, and mercy, and the truth that makes us free.*

*You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.  
We respond in grateful worship, joined in one community.  
When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.  
Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.*

*God, your Word is still creating, calling us to life made new.  
Now reveal to us fresh vistas, where there's work to dare and do.  
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.  
Thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

### \*Litany

- L: The way of the Lord is not easy. We must not cling to our own traditions, but prepare the day for God's transformations.
- P: *We must be the light to those in darkness, and guide their feet into paths of peace.***
- L: The way of the Lord is not easy. We must not offer our lip service only, but withhold no measure of service in life.
- P: *We must make justice roll down like the waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.***
- L: The way of the Lord is not easy. We must not act so that others might notice but fulfill the law that only God can see.
- P: *We must read the Word placed in our minds, and obey the law written on our hearts.***
- L: Let us hear, and let us understand.
- P: *Let us worship the Lord, not in name, but in truth; let us worship the Lord, not in vain, but with faith!***

### 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 provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.*

## Going Out to Serve

### \*Closing Hymn

*Open My Eyes That I May See*

# 324

*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!*

**\*Blessing**

L: May you intentionally work at discerning what God calls you to BE and DO,

**P: *That we might be blessed by serving in those ways.***

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.*

