



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
August 16, 2020 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

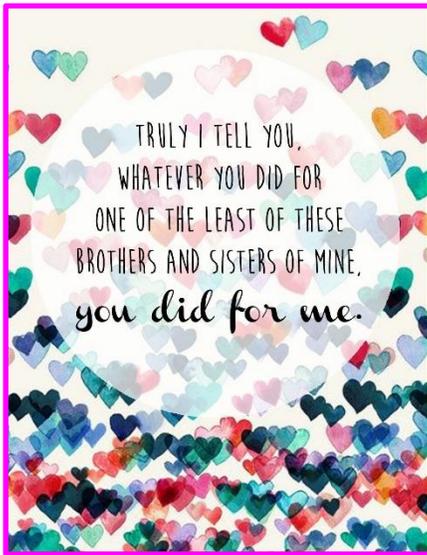
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Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



In Mt. 15, the Gospel writer tells a story about Jesus in foreign territory – the district of Tyre and Sidon. The residents of this territory were NOT Jewish, and thus were unclean by Jewish standards. Most Jews would have no dealings with such people, but Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman, who seeks healing for her daughter.

This woman displays a “mother’s love.” She puts the welfare of her child above her reputation, as she, a woman, approaches a man (not appropriate in that culture), and as she, a non-Jew, knows she could be put down for approaching a Jew. Indeed, the disciples ask Jesus to send her away. At first, Jesus responds in silence. We wonder: Did he realize, at that point, that his ministry was not just to the Jews? We don’t know. After some harsh words from Jesus, she uses her wit to plead her cause. She shows great faith, and Jesus does heal her daughter.

We are called by Jesus to minister to the needs of “the least of these.” In doing this, we may be criticized or lose our social standing. Are we willing to set aside our pride and reputation, and to use our wit, as we stand with them? How great is our faith?

Call to Worship

- L:** The invitation to worship has been extended. Our God has welcomed us into this place of worship, and we come to respond with praise and thanksgiving.
- P:** ***Come, one and all, to give praise and glory to our God.***
- L:** As creation proclaims the greatness of God with all its beauty, so we proclaim God’s greatness with word and song.
- P:** ***We will shout and sing and dance and pray – all to the glory of the one true God.***
- A:** ***We accept your invitation to come and gather as your people, O God. We are excited to be here with you, and our community of faith. May this time together strengthen us for the living of faithful lives.***

*Hymn of Praise

Gather Us In

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; Give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion, Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, Not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining; Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we confess that we are so much more at ease with people, who look and speak and act like we do. We admit that we have a hard time getting out of our comfort zones, when it comes to being more inclusive, as your community of faith. Holy God, we come asking you to give us the courage to be a part of your ever-widening circle of family, reaching out and inviting all your children to join us. Give us wisdom and compassion, that we might try to understand and accept those who are different from us. And now we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the Good News: Joyful is the person whose hope is in God.

P: ***The God who created us, loves and restores us, makes us whole, to be the faithful people of God, if we allow the Spirit to do its transforming work within us.***

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

Psalm 133

The Blessedness of Unity



How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

Second Lesson

Matthew 15: 21-28

The Canaanite's Woman's Faith

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Sermon

Builders of Walls or Builders of Bridges?

Responding to the Word

***Hymn # 439**

In Christ There Is No East or West

*In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love, Throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere, Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord, Close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, Whate'er your race may be,
All children of the living God, Are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west, In him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him, Throughout the whole wide earth.*

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

The Invitation *You are invited to place your offering in the basket at the
back of the sanctuary or send it in to the church. Thank you!*

Prayer of Dedication: God of love and mercy, use us and this offering to share your love with all those in need. May we be instruments of your love and healing. Amen.

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # 435

We All Are One in Mission

*We all are one in mission, We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united, By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission, Compels us from above
To plan and work together, That all may know Christ's love.*

*We all are called for service, To witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, Our purpose is the same;
To touch the lives of others, By God's surprising grace.
So every folk and nation, May feel God's warm embrace.*

*Now let us be united, And let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel, For God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission, We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united, By Christ, the Lord of all.*

* Blessing

L: We came on the strength of God's promise of mercy.

P: *We have found a sense of love and acceptance, worshipping as the Body of Christ.*

L: And to labor for the welfare of all those for whom Christ lived and died.

P: *We leave on the strength of God's promise to be present with us always.*

L: We go out to carry the presence of God to a world that is hurting. And may the blessings of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forevermore.

*Response

*He Is Lord
He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

