

DO NOT
merely listen
TO THE WORD, *and so deceive yourselves.*

do WHAT IT SAYS.

JAMES 1:22

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

August 29, 2021

Worship Service



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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader: Skip Leeson

Sharing Our Vision

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

Management consultant, Ken Blanchard, co-author of *The One Minutes Manager*, highlights the importance of maintaining a four-to-one ration of Praise vs. Criticism in the workplace. Effective bosses, he suggests, praise employees 4 times as often as they criticize them.

In one research study, bosses intentionally praised and criticized employees according to a 1 – 1 ratio. Most of these employees reported having a totally negative relationship with their boss.

When the ratio was changed to 2 – to – 1, employees still felt the boss was all over them. It was only when the ratio hit 4 – to – 1 that employees relaxed and reported having a good relationship with their supervisor.



“The perception of a reprimand is powerful” Blanchard writes. “One negative word can be balanced only by four positive words. It’s clear that if you don’t start giving a LOT of praise, the people you work around will begin to think of you as negative and unfair.”
- Ken Blanchard

Just imagine how much more pleasant the world would be if we all did at least as much PRAISING as we did CRITICIZING. All it takes is adjusting the knob in a more positive direction.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: We are gathered to celebrate life’s great blessings -

P: To worship the Lord who is the source of them all:

L: That the ears of the deaf may be opened -

P: To hear the words of truth and beauty;

L: That the tongues of the mute may be loosed –

P: To speak the words of love and duty.

A: The Lord seeks us. Come, let us seek the Lord.

*Hymn of Praise

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

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*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.*

Prayer of Confession

Holy and loving God, we know enough of your Word and commandments to know that the life of discipleship requires drastic changes in our way of living. And yet, we are slow to make those changes even though we love you and desire to follow Christ. Forgive us for our unrighteousness and for those things in our lives which would lead onlookers to doubt our sincerity. We invite you to be the Lord of our lives that we may be living examples of your Word. 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: Our heavenly Father sends the Spirit to sustain us in faith.
- P: ***And the Holy Spirit gives us strength to resist evil and center our lives around God.***
- 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	<i>Mark 7: 1-8</i>	<i>The Tradition of the Elders</i>	Lay Leader
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Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

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

Second Lesson

James 1: 17-27

Hearing and Doing the Word

Carol

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act - they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Words Matter!

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

O God of Earth and Space

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*O God of earth and space, of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here and everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree, in shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells, now as of old.*

*Where faithfulness is shown, where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life, there you are found.
Inspirer of all thought! Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue, in every heart!*

*Wherever freedom reigns, where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules, there you are known.
Give us the courage clear to make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony in Christ's shalom.*

*Every GOOD
and PERFECT gift
is from above.
JAMES 1:17*

*Your Word commands response and summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by your grace, in calm or strife.
Our ever-present help, our challenge and our prod,
We praise you now and to life's end, eternal God.*

*Litany

L: Hallelujah!

P: Praise God in this holy house of worship.

L: Praise God under the open skies.

M: Praise God for his acts of power.

L: Praise God for his magnificent greatness.

W: Praise God with blaring trumpet and strumming strings.

L: Praise God with castanets and dance.

M: With banjo and flute, let our praises ring.

L: Praise God with cymbals and a big bass drum.

W: Let every living creature praise God!

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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

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*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a Word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies!*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

Blessing

L: Go in peace into the new week.

P: We will offer words of encouragement and hope to all we meet,

A: Sharing appreciation and love to affirm the blessings we have been given.

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.*

