

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God...

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

August 8, 2021

Worship Service



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader: Pam Leeson

Sharing Our Vision

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

Christianity is not a religion at all but
a way of life, a falling in love with
God, and through him a falling in
love with our fellows.

— John Bertram Phillips —

Brian McLaren tells of hearing scientist and business management expert Peter Senge address a gathering of Christian pastors and leaders. Senge posed a question: Why are books on Buddhism so popular, and not books on Christianity?

Senge's answer was this: I think it's because Buddhism presents itself as a way of life, and Christianity presents itself as a system of belief. So I would want to get Christian pastors thinking about how to rediscover their own faith as a

way of life, because that's what people are searching for today.

McLaren comments: The issue, of course, isn't either/or, but both/and; it's hard to deny that too many of us have lost the way of our faith. Without a coherent and compelling way of life, formed in community and expressed in mission, some of us begin losing interest in the system of belief, or we begin holding it grimly, even meanly, driving more and more people away from our faith rather than attracting them toward it.

- Brian McLaren, Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices

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: Let us join together in worship to await God's presence and hope in God's Word.

P: We are here anticipating the movement of the Spirit as if we were looking for the first light of dawn after a dark night.

*Hymn of Praise

Be Thou My Vision

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*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art –
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

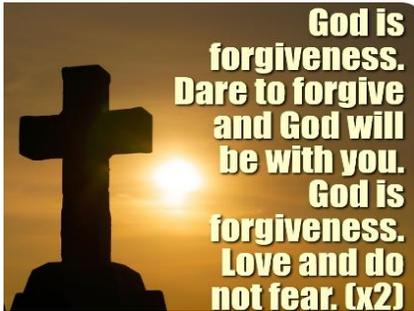
*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God on heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we have been false to one another and have not spoken the full truth. We have sinned in our anger, we have not worked honestly, and we have not always shared with the needy. Evil talk has come out of our mouths, and our words have not given grace to those who hear. We have grieved your Holy Spirit because we have not imitated you, nor have we lived in love. Sacrifice has not been part of our lifestyle to the extent that you would like. Give us the grace of your forgiveness, O God. Make us know that to be your beloved children means to take on your burdens and to love ALL your people. Help us to be honest through and through, so that we may praise you with our whole being and reflect your love with our lives. 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: The God of love who formed us in our mother's womb knows all the workings of our hearts.
P: We know that we have been forgiven in Christ and become whole.
 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 130

Waiting for Divine Redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 4: 25 – 5:2

Rules for New Life

“WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR US”

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Tiffany Living

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

*O God, We Are a Church Reformed
Sung to O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*Our God, we are a church reformed,
A church reforming still;
We long to grow in your true Word,
And follow more your will*

*How awesome is your sovereign rule;
You reign from heav'n above,
Yet you knelt down in Jesus Christ,
In sacrificial love.*

*In love, you bring your people here,
And call your church to you,
That we may know salvation's joy
And serve in all we do.*

*You call us to community;
By faith our hearts are stirred.
In church, we seek an ordered life,
According to your Word.*

*As faithful stewards we find joy;
We need no rich display.
Lord, teach us all to use with care
The gifts you give each day.*

*The world makes gods of lesser things,
And wrongly uses power;
So by your Spirit may we work
For justice every hour.*

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



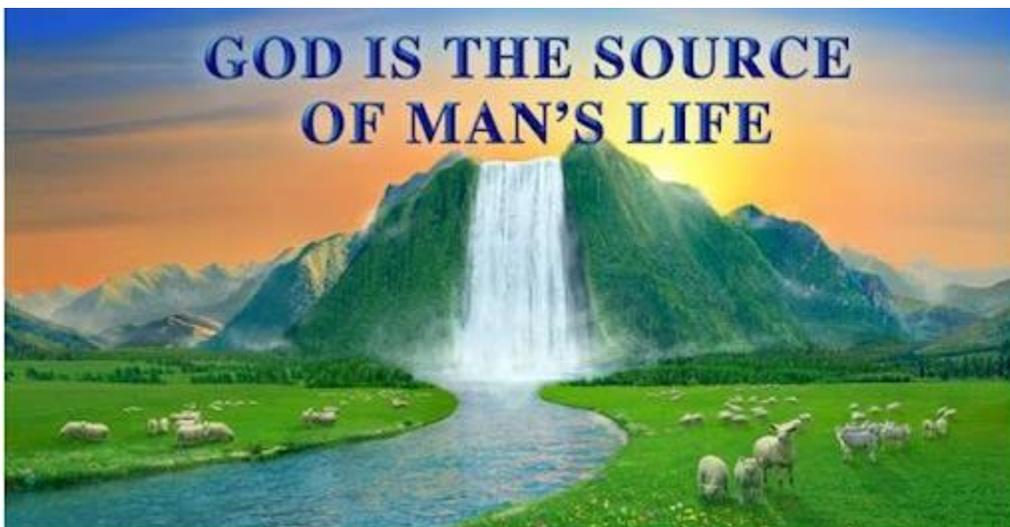
God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

God of Our Life

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*God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

*God of the past, our times are in thy hand, with us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land; be thou our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*God of the coming years, through paths unknown, we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

Blessing

L: Go from this place remembering to allow yourself to reflect and transmit the light and love of God to the world around you.

P: We will share our blessings with all of God's children.

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.*

