

**Greatest Of All Commandments:
love God, and love others.**

Grateful

Using our God given intellect to recognize all that we have is a gift from God; rooting our gratefulness in a deep prayer life.

Offering

Offering ourselves, our skills and our resources to God's church and those in need; turning our good intentions into action.

Accountable

Holding ourselves and each other accountable to God to use the talents and treasures He has given to us.
God knows our heart.

Committed

Making it a priority to commit to using all of our talents and treasures to love God and to love others.

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

December 12, 2021

Worship Service



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

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

The Worship of God

3rd Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Our Vision

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

No one can serve two masters

Either you will love the one and hate the other
or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other
You cannot serve both God and money

Matthew 6:24 NIV



In an article written by David Briggs of the Huffington Post, "The Flesh Is Weak: Churchgoers Give Far Less Than They Think" the author suggests that churchgoers like to think of themselves as generous and cheerful givers, but for many, the flesh appears to be weak when it comes to living up to their own standards for charitable giving. Briggs says that a quarter of respondents in a new national study said they tithed 10 percent of their income to charity. But when their donations were checked against income figures, only 3 percent of the group gave more than 5 percent to charity.

Mt. 6:24 says, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." Like the parable of the rich young ruler who refused to give up his possessions, parting with one's personal treasure is one of the greatest challenges facing people of faith, research indicates.

*There is "in many American Christians...a kind of 'comfortable guilt' – that is, living with an awareness and feeling of culpability for not giving money more generously, but maintaining that at a low enough level of discomfort that it was not too disturbing or motivating enough to actually increase giving," Smith, Emerson and Snell report in their book, *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money*. "Many Christians did not have clean consciences about money. But neither did they seem prepared to change their financial dealings in ways that would eliminate their modest levels of guilt."*

What is the solution? Be honest and open with yourself AND God and prayerfully consider what God is calling you to sacrifice. Give to God due to a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude, rather than to help the church pay bills.



Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, hear the Good News: Grace, mercy and forgiveness are gifts of God for the people of God.

P: *The faithful will give thanks for God's grace and abide with God in love.*

L: Believe the Good News of the Gospel -

P: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!*

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Hebrews 9: 11-15; 10: 5-7, 12-18

Christ's Sacrifice Once and For All
Lay Leader



CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ONCE

for all

Hebrews 10:1-18

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you

have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God."

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds', he also adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: *Thanks be to God.*

Special Music



One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself", - this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Stewardship of Life – It All Begins with Me

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart

#351, vs. 1, 2 & 4

1-Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart
And a discerning mind;
Give, as I play the Christian's part,
The strength to finish what I start,
And act on what I find.

2-When, in the rush of days, my will
Is habit-bound and slow,
Help me to keep in vision still
What love and power and peace can fill,
A life that trusts in you.



4-Jesus, with all your church I long
To see your kingdom come:
Show me your way of righting wrong
And turning sorrow into song,
Until you bring me home.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

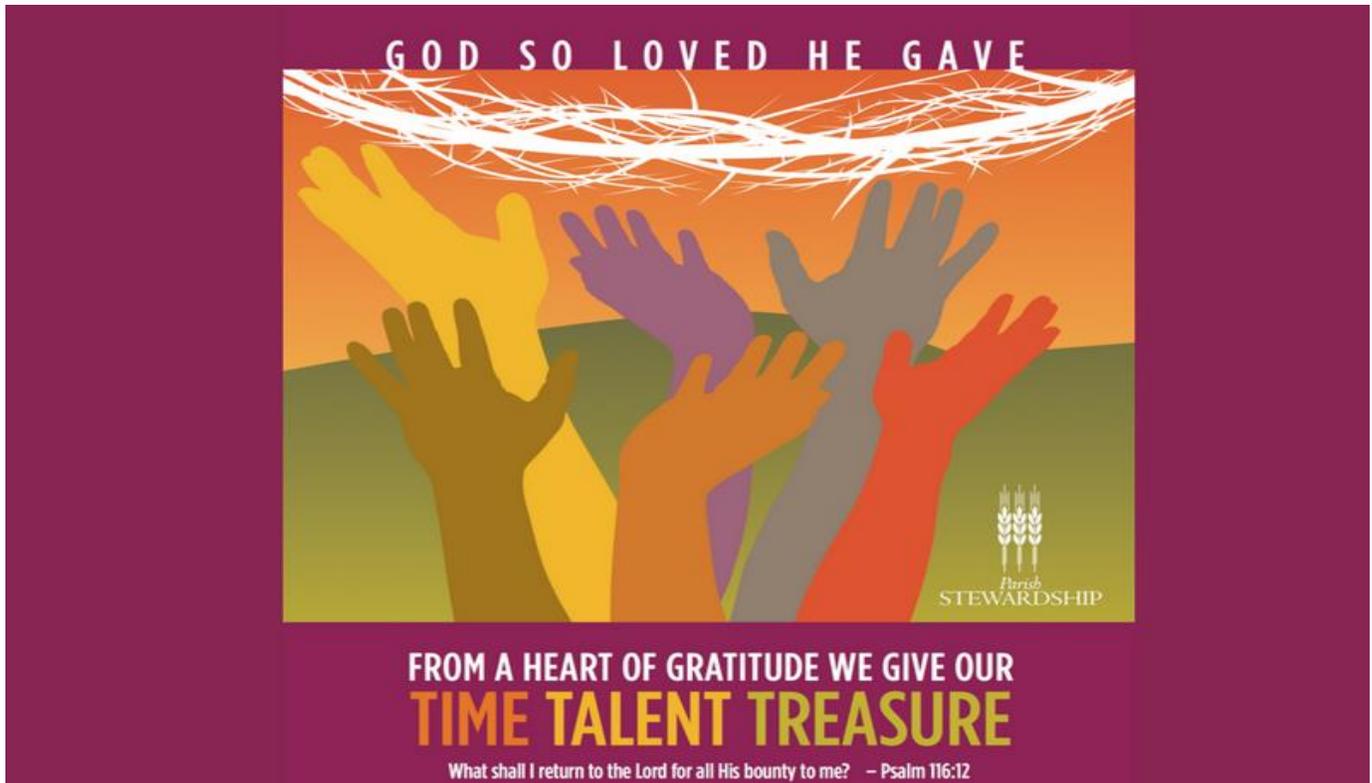
Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

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.

The Making and Dedication of our 2022 Commitments to God's Church

Each of you is invited to come forward and place your financial commitments and your Time and Talent commitments into the basket on the communion table as a sign of your willingness to be used by God to serve this church in 2022.



Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

434, vs. 1, 2, 4

*1-Today we all are called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free,
Make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.*

*2-God made the world and at its birth,
Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
We sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
That threatens all of life.*

4-May we in service to our God
 Act out the living Word.
 And walk the road the saints have trod
 Till all have seen and heard.
 As stewards of the earth may we
 Give thanks in one accord
 To God who calls us all to be
 Disciples of the Lord.

Blessing

L: The Word of God affirms that the Lord our God is ONE God.

P: *And we shall love the Lord our God with all of our HEART, for the joy of the Lord shall never be spent.*

L: Let us praise our God with all of our SOUL, for the Spirit of the Lord shall never be broken.

P: *And we shall love the Lord our God with all of our MIND, for the will of the Lord shall never be foiled.*

L: Let us serve the Lord our God with all of our STRENGTH, for it is right that we do so.

A: *We go from this place committed to love and serve the Lord our God with all that we are and have, for we desire to honor the God who created, redeemed, and sustains us.*

L: 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.*

**Serving
 is our
 privilege**

Each of us plays our part.
 We gratefully share the
 load of Christ's call to serve.