



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
February 28, 2021 10:00am Service**



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

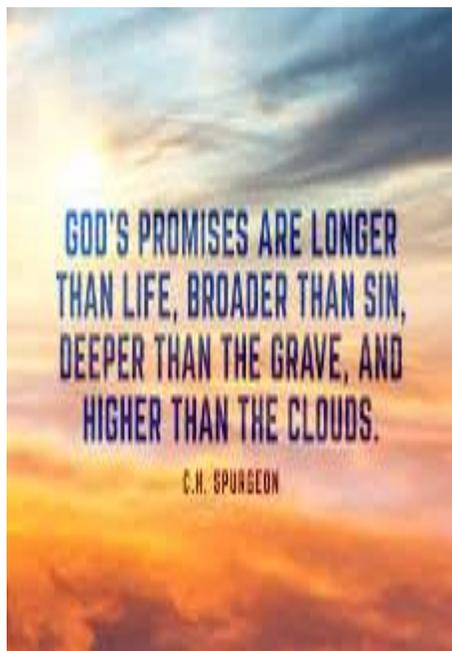
## The Second Sunday of Lent

### Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Brian Lindgren

## Preparing to Meet God

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



*God's promises last forever, but sometimes our promises to God are a little shaky. Case in point:*

*The man who was driving down the street, desperately searching for a parking place so he wouldn't be late for an important meeting. In desperation, he gazed into the heavens and prayed, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I promise to go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whiskey!" Instantly, a parking place opened up before him and he took it, whereupon he looked up to heaven again and said, "Never mind, I found one.."*

*Just before the death of actor, W. C. Fields, a friend visited his hospital room and was surprised to find him thumbing through a Bible. Asked what he was doing with a Bible, Fields replied, "I'm looking for loopholes."*

*The God who made us and loves us keeps his promises. God made a covenant with Abram which has been passed down to us. Are we keeping up our part of the covenant relationship, or are we constantly looking for loopholes to get out of it? During this holy season, consider ways that you might be more faithful to your covenant with God.*

### Call to Worship

- L: The Lord entered into a covenant with Abram and Sarai, and not only with them, but also with us.
- P: *The sign of the covenant was that their names were changed to Abraham and Sarah.***
- L: At times, they doubted God because of their old age, and the miraculous nature of God's promise.
- P: *At times, we too doubt God's promises because of our sin.***
- A: *But the Lord is God, and the covenant is everlasting, so we come today to celebrate our covenant with our God!***

### \*Hymn of Praise #

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
Thy clouds, which are fountains, of goodness and love.*

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see,  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*



### Prayer of Confession

***O God, we desire to show our respect to you and your Son. And yet, the way we live disrespects you. We cherish the old, rugged cross, but we give little thought to atonement. We require a crucified Lord to give us the hope of new life. But do we really understand the sacrifice he made for us, and honor him with our lives? Forgive us for worshiping pride, greatness, and esteem, unaware that they are the very reasons for the cross he bore for us. Help us to come to the cross and find the forgiveness and redemption which you offer. But turn us away if we do not acknowledge and appreciate its cost. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.***

### Assurance of Forgiveness

- L:** Hear the Good News: Christ died for our sins, once and for all.  
**P:** ***He, who was just, suffered for the unjust, to reconcile us to 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

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

The Sign of the Covenant

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.*

*God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'*



### Second Lesson

Mark 8: 31-38

Jesus Foretells of His Death and Resurrection

*Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'*

*He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'*

### Sermon

Taking Up Your Cross

## Responding to the Word

### \*Hymn #

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,  
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,  
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*We believe in God whose love is ever constant and steadfast, even when we are not.*

*We believe in Jesus the Christ who walked among us, who was betrayed and forgave, and who died that we might live.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, ever present with us, to comfort as well as urge us forward in the name of Christ.*

*We believe in the church as the place where we are loved just as we are, and yet, still gently encouraged to grow.*

*We believe that we are called to BE the church – to love people more than they deserve, because that is how Christ loves us.*

*We believe in the miracle of life and in the life everlasting.*

*This is the faith we affirm.*

**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 in the back of the sanctuary.*

**Prayer of Dedication**

## Going Out to Serve God

**\* Hymn #**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*



*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day, be wholly thine!*

*May thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee  
Pure warm, and changeless be, a living fire!*

*While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away;  
Nor let me ever stray, from thee aside.*

*When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;  
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!*

#### \* Blessing

L: Friends, take heart in the sure knowledge that God's love does not change, and will never let us go -

**P: *Even though there are times when we might let go of God.***

L: Remember the words of Christ: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of time.

**P: *Jesus' journey took him into a world of suffering, rejection and death. As we go into this same world, may God embolden us, that we too might take up our cross and follow, no matter what.***

L: And may the blessings of God ...

#### \*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.*

