

*How is our church's
WORTH determined?*

*What matters is
TO WHOM WE BELONG, and
WHAT WE DO with the gifts
with which we have been
blessed, and **IF WE ARE
BEING FAITHFUL**
to our **MISSION**.*



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 7, 2021 10:00am Service**



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

The Worship of God

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader:

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



We've all heard of WWJD. What about SDG? You won't find those initials on many wristbands, but you will find them on hundreds of pieces of music written by Johann Sebastian Bach. They stand for a Latin phrase, "Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the glory). Bach also wrote INJ (In the Name of Jesus) on his compositions. Bach felt so strongly that his musical compositions were meant to glorify God that he scrawled those initials on his manuscripts. There was a time when those initials would have been found all over church buildings, inscribed on items as varied as organ pipes, stained glass and furniture. We're not much for Latin phrases today, but what about the message they signify? Even in English translation, not so many of us are eager to inscribe our creations – whatever they may be – with such a slogan. But when the church serves the community in which its located, GOD IS GLORIFIED. SDG – A reminder of why the church does what it does.

Call to Worship

- L: As Christians, our challenge is to be personal representatives of Christ in all situations.
- P: *This is made difficult by laws and different interpretations of those laws, confusing us as to how to live faithfully.***
- L: Our ministry is to share the gospel in such a way that all may be able to understand the miracle of their salvation.
- P: *May God use us and this church to witness to the saving power of God's love and forgiveness.***
- L: That communicates the gospel in a way that includes rather than excluding all God's people.

*Hymn of Praise

Fight the Good Fight

*Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be,
Thy joy and crown eternally.*

*Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ’s face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.*

*Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God’s boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.*

*Faint not nor fear: God’s arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.*

Prayer of Confession

O God, we give you thanks that you made us in your image and that each of us is unique. Among your people, there is an endless variety of personalities and viewpoints. Just as the Body of Christ is varied, the people to whom we are called to interpret the gospel are many and varied as well. We have not always been sensitive as to HOW we have communicated the Good News, and as a result, some have not understood and have not come to know you. Forgive us for our narrow vision and limited commitment to make the METHOD or MEANS by which we share the gospel as inviting as the MESSAGE itself. Broaden our horizons, our abilities, and our commitment to reach out in love as we share the gospel that our witness might be a demonstration of Jesus’ life rather than a contest of wills. Keep before us that we are called to go out and make disciples, doing whatever is necessary to be inviting and welcoming to all. And now we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

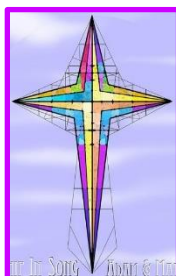
Assurance of Forgiveness

- L: Hear the Good News: As we have shown ourselves to be willing to come to Christ as his disciples,
- P: ***We will be forgiven and cleansed of all our sins, becoming new creations in Christ.***
- L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –
- P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***



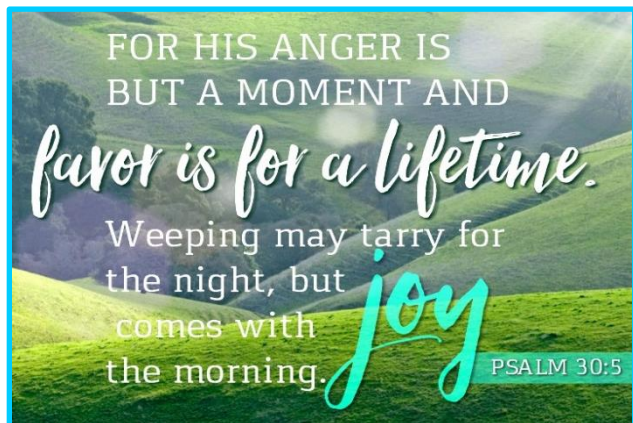
Meeting God in the Word

**Children’s Message
Prayer for Illumination**



First Lesson

Psalm 30

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, 'I shall never be moved.' By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: 'What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!

O Lord, be my helper!' You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

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

Second Lesson

*I Corinthians 9: 16-27**Running the Race for Christ*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we, an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

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

Sermon

Nothing More, Nothing Less

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Welcoming God
 (Sung to the tune of *Blessed Assurance*)



*Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
 When the disciples just urged them away.
 Children are welcome at Jesus' knee:
 God's own examples for ministry.
 Welcoming God, you open the Way;
 Even the smallest, worship and pray,
 Singing with faith and serving you well,
 Your life to know and good news to tell.*

*Outcasts are welcome; sinners are too,
 Eating with Jesus and being made new:
 Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
 Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
 God of great love, you stand at the door,
 Welcoming people outcast and poor
 So you forgive and call us to be
 Filled with the joy of your jubilee.*

*Women are welcome, as are the men;
 Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.
 Partners as prophets, ministers, too:
 No more divided – made one in you.
 Welcoming God, you open the way;
 Those once divided join now to pray,
 Serving at Table, preaching your Word,
 So that your love for all will be heard.*

*So may we welcome into our pew
 All who in Jesus are being made new –
 All those who seek him, wanting to know,
 Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.
 Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
 As someone different, outcast or poor.
 With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
 May we all welcome you in your church.*

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

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation and Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving



Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee



*O Master, let me walk with thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toll, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

*In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.*

*** Blessing**

L: As you leave worship today, may your feet be swift, your lungs be full of breath, and your body strong.

P: *We will run the race of faith in such a way as to win it, inviting others to join with us.*

L: Become all things to all people, doing everything for the sake of the gospel,

P: *That God might be honored by all that we do.*

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.*