



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



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

The Worship of God

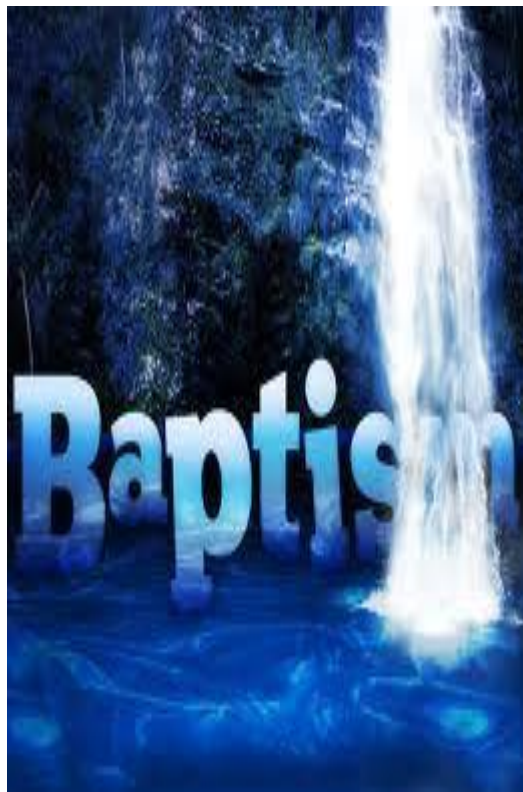
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



Right off the bat today, our Gospel text names “sin.” There have been wonderful attempts to define “sin” – attempts to succinctly name it. I’ve heard that “sin is anything that separates us from God,” or that “sin is a turning in on oneself, when all of the arrows point to me,” or “if loving God and neighbor are the whole of the commandments, then sin is any way we are UNloving.”

In addition to these definitions, I would offer two observations. First, sin is a God term. In our society, we make mistakes, we commit misdemeanors and felonies, we break laws, and we are “jerks.” But in our culture, to use the word “sin” immediately and nicely assumes that there is a God. Second, sin is persistent. Thanks to our God, we are growing in our faith, but we will never in this life outgrow sin and our need for forgiveness.

How fascinating that people were flocking to John to hear him name them as sinful. They travelled miles to him in droves to confess their sins. Too many of us are afraid of offending others or we just want to be nice, and yet, humans hunger for the truth. John named the truth, and it was cleansing to his audience to have it named and to hear it said out loud: “I am a sinner.” Pretending is hard, emotionally taxing work whereas truth speaking takes courage, but it is ultimately liberating.

Call to Worship

L: In the beginning is the Voice, and the Voice of God thunders over the waters.

P: *The Voice of God sounds over the deep saying,*

L: “Come to the Jordan - wade into the river - for the Lord grants strength to those who are weary,

P: *And the Lord God blesses the people with peace!”*

L: O children of the earth, step off the bank and into the waters,

P: *And the clouds shall be rent by the light of heaven.*

L: There shall be evening, and there shall be morning,

A: *And we shall worship the One who declares this day good!*

Hymn of Praise #624I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
 My only trust and Savior of my heart,
 Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
 I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
 Reigning omnipotent in every place:
 So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
 Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.*

*Thou are the life, by which alone we live,
 And all our substance and our strength receive;
 Sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 And give us strength in every trying hour.*

*Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
 No harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 That we may dwell in perfect unity.*

*Our hope is in no other save in thee;
 Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
 That in thy strength we evermore endure.*

Prayer of Confession

Living God, when the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in Jordan's water you revealed him as your own beloved Son, just as you call us your children. And you anointed him with the Holy Spirit just as you do for us. And so, on this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we ask that you would grant that all who are baptized in his name may keep the covenant between us and you, and boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior now and forever. May we be as faithful to our calling as Jesus was to his. 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: The Spirit washes us clean from all our sins in the waters of baptism.
- P:** ***We give thanks for the forgiveness of our sins, and pray that we might truly repent and turn away from sin.***
- 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

Acts 19: 1-7

Paul in Ephesus

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

Second Lesson

Mark 1: 4-11

The Baptism of Jesus

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



Sermon

Being Baptized

Responding to the Word

*Hymn #163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
 Calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:
 "Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
 Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth and love.
 Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
 Then the flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store.

*With such preaching, start and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.*

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Those to be ordained: Pat Wright as Elder
Jane Adams and Cheryl Shields as Deacons
Bill Shields as a Trustee

Those to be installed: All of the above-mentioned persons plus Brian Lindgren (elder),
Barbara Montazella (elder), Fred Noll (trustee) and Bill Shields
(trustee)

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.*

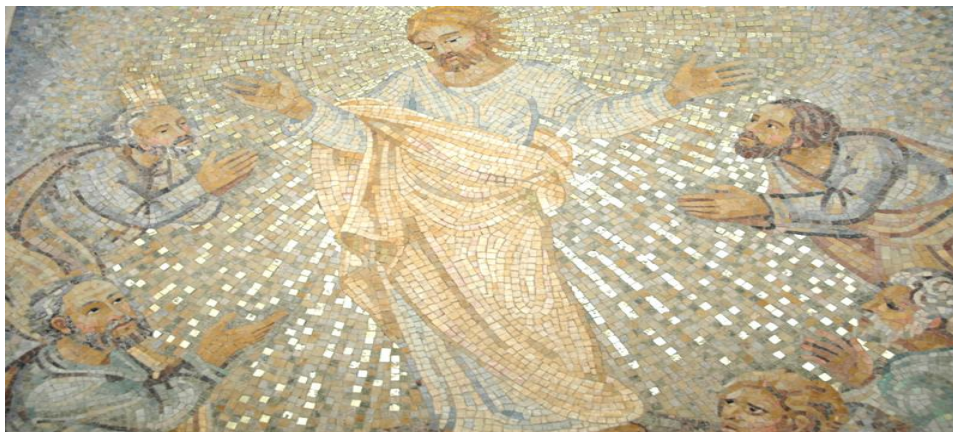
The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

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 #618

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High



*O love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.*

*For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptations sharp he knew, for us, the tempter overthrew.*

*For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.*

*For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
For us he sent the Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.*

*All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.*

*** Blessing**

L: May God go with you as you depart into the desert, there to meet the temptations of the soul.

P: *May the Spirit lead us to an oasis where waters run deep and clouds rise high, and where the Voice of heaven whispers in the cool of the trees.*

L: May the Spirit lead us all in the way God wants us to go, and may we be found faithful in all that we do, as we wash in the waters of our baptism. 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.*

