



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 17, 2021 10:00am Service**



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

The Worship of God

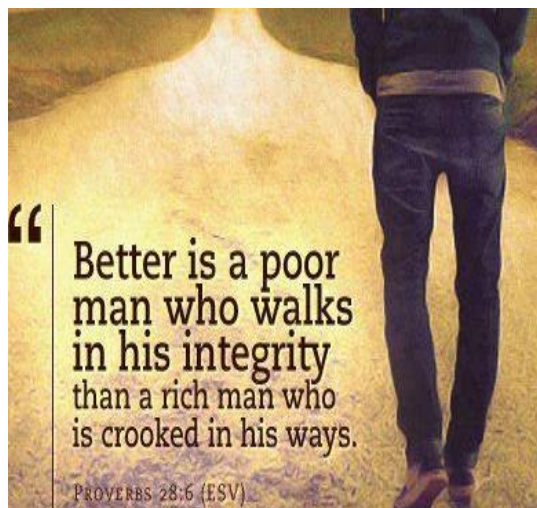
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader:

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



Mahatma Gandhi famously taught: "One man cannot do right in one department of life whilst he is occupied in doing wrong in any other department. Life is one indivisible whole." A lot of behavior that gets described, eventually, as 'guile' begins as what behavioral psychologists call "compartmentalizing." It has been observed by psychologists that quite a few men, in particular, can be quite adept at this type of behavior. Home, work, sports, the out-of-town business trip - each of these becomes its own watertight compartment in the man's mind, with its own set of ethical rules. Of course, this is not to say that women don't have the same kind of behavior. In any case, such rules can be mutually contradictory, but that's not a problem, as long as the different compartments remain sealed (or so the person thinks). The problem is, they're not really sealed. Life is an indivisible whole.

President John Adams, in a letter to his sons, wrote: "Have you considered the meaning of the word 'worthy'? Weigh it well...I had rather you should be worthy possessors of one thousand pounds honestly acquired by your own labor and industry, than of ten million by banks and tricks. I should rather you be worthy shoemakers than secretaries of states or treasury acquired by libels in newspapers. I had rather you should be worthy makers of brooms and baskets than unworthy presidents of the United States procured by intrigue, factious slander and corruption."

Call to Worship

- L: Holy God, as we move away from Christmas, and settle back into our everyday routines, we ask you to help us retain that sense of anticipation, which comes with the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- P: *May our worship be filled with eager anticipation of your return and involvement in our lives.***
- A: *As we sing your praises, along with the heavenly host, may it be pleasing to you.***

*Hymn of Praise # 816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trust in God's unchanging love, builds on the rock that nought can move.*

*Only be still, and wait God's leisure, in cheerful hope, with heart content,
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure, and all discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear to One who holds us always dear.*

*Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace; so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need, the soul secured by trust indeed.*

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, in the days when your Word was rarely heard, and when divine visions were scarce, you broke into Samuel's life and called his name. And he responded positively with joy. We confess that too often so many voices clamor for our attention, that your Word is again hard to hear. Forgive us if you have called us to BE or DO something and we have not heard, or have been unwilling to respond positively.

Lord Jesus, you met Philip and Nathanael on the road and said, "Follow me," and they did so without hesitation. We confess that we do not expect to meet you on the familiar roads we travel, and so we fail to discern your presence or your call on our lives. You have placed within us the power to recognize and to respond to your invitation to follow, even when that means travelling on unfamiliar paths. Take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice, and fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully respond when you call. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer to share our concerns and you're your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the Good News: Even if we, at first, do not hear God's Word to us, God calls us again and again.

P: ***When our words and actions separate us from God, Paul assures us that Jesus paid the price to restore us to the One who made and loves us.***

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

1 Samuel 3: 1-20

Samuel's Call and Prophetic Activity



Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

Second Lesson

John 1: 43-51

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Sermon

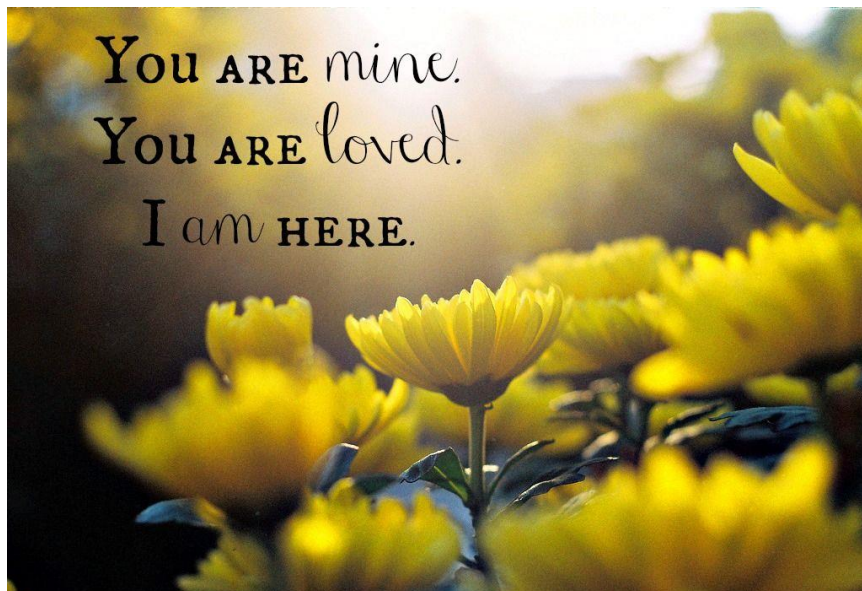
The Christ-like Thing to Do



Responding to the Word

*Hymn # 409

God Is Here!



*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts,
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

*Here are symbols to remind us of the lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.*

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant, seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore*

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

Litany of Faith

- L: What shall we render unto the Lord?
P: We will offer our gifts and songs of thanksgiving.
 L: The Lord has shown us his works of love,
P: And has kept his covenant with us.
 L: How good is the Lord to all,
P: And how rich are the depths of God's goodness.
 L: Who could ever fathom God's ways,
P: Or repay God for all his blessings?

L: For all things were created by God,

P: *And all things exist THROUGH God and FOR God.*

L: What will it profit us to gain the whole world, and lose our souls?

P: *What can we give in exchange for our lives?*

L: Every good and perfect gift comes from God.

A: *Then in our giving and receiving, let us seek the things that are of God, for there will our hearts be also. Alleluia! Amen.*

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 # 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

*Jesus, thy boundless love to me, no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.*

*O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.*

*O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.*

* Blessing

L: Today we have heard God's Word concerning the way we are to live.

P: *May we go from this place to live faithfully as God guides us.*

L: Let us live without guile, with our hearts open to truth, living honorably with all.

P: *And let us humbly follow in the way of the One who came to save us.*

L: Be thankful and live full and abundant lives. 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.*