

finding my
PURPOSE

IN
*sacred,
ordinary*
DAYS

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 31, 2021 10:00am Service**



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

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader:

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

If you are struggling with the meaning of life, you could select an answer from the broad field of philosophy. Among them are: (1) That there's a God, but that God doesn't supply meaning; (2) That there's no God, and life has no meaning, or (3) That meaning comes from God, even if we cannot see it or understand it. Three options, but if you have committed yourself to living in the realm defined by the Bible, the church, and the Christian faith, then you have to eliminate options 1 and 2. Even if you cannot sense any meaning to your life, you have to conclude that there's meaning nonetheless, and that it comes from God. Accepting that, then, you can go on, operating on the assumption that God knows the meaning of your life even if you do not, and therefore you have reason to continue the journey. You may not be an energetic runner, but at least, you are "unweary."



Isaiah 40 calls us to "wait on the Lord." This doesn't mean that we wait on God to fix everything in our lives, without actively participating. As believers, we are not immune to problems, and we can't expect our God to take them all away. Rather, when we "wait on the Lord, we have the assurance that no matter what happens, our lives are in the hands of the One who created and loves us. And, that conviction gives us what Isaiah calls "power to the faint and strength to the powerless." When we wait on God, we shall run and not be weary.

Call to Worship

L: If we cry the cry of the brokenhearted, our God shall hear us, and bind us up.

P: ***If we plead the plea of the outcast, our God shall hear us, and bring us in.***

L: Let us rejoice, and bind up all wounds; let us rejoice, and bring all people in.

P: ***For the world is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And we are God's people gathered together in worship, and we welcome ALL of God's children.***

*Hymn of Praise

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.*

Prayer of Confession

We are quite aware that life is difficult, and that problems and diseases abound in the world. We long for a miracle worker who can heal us. We read of the miracles Jesus performed, and we wish these things would happen today with those we love. But when we stand back and try to see the big picture, we realize that the real miracle for which Jesus came, took place on the cross, and it brings healing to all wounded souls. Forgive us, O God, for wanting something less than what Jesus gives us so freely. Help us fully surrender, that his death on the cross will make us whole. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concern and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

- L: Friends, have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable.
- P: *The God who created us and know us by name, sent his only Son to redeem rather than condemn 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

Isaiah 40: 21-31 The Majesty of Our Creator God



1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours - Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is

unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Second Lesson Mark 1: 29-39 Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sermon

Keeping the Faith on Ordinary Days

Responding to the Word

***Hymn**

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

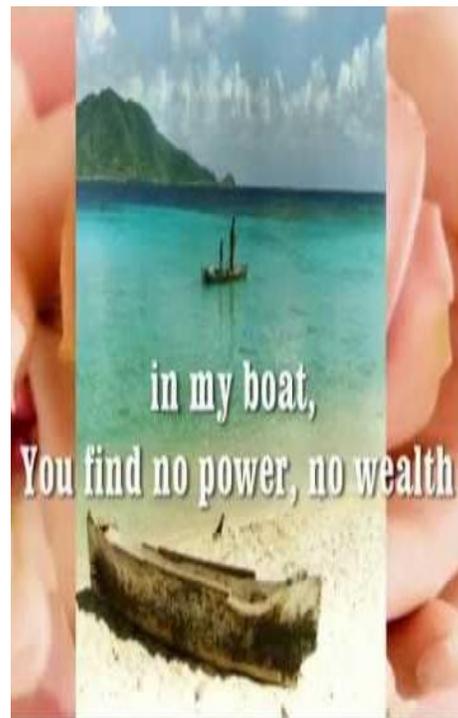
*Lord, you have come to the lakeshore,
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.*

**Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side, I will seek other seas.**

*You know so well my possessions;
My boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and labor. **Refrain***

*You need my hands, full of caring,
Through my labors to give others rest
And constant love that keeps on loving. **Refrain***

*You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend, as thus you call me. **Refrain***



***Litany of Faith**

L: We feel like we have no power, Lord. The day drives us like slaves, and the night gives us no rest.

P: **And yet, your power overcomes the mightiest arm. Lord, be our POWER.**

L: At times, we feel hopeless, Lord. Our days escape more swiftly than the breath from our lips, and the sun seems to be setting.

P: *And yet, your hope penetrates the deepest shadow. Lord, be our HOPE.*

L: We long for true and abiding love, Lord. Our lives are full of emptiness and, too often, loneliness is what we experience.

P: *Your love endures the greatest betrayal. Lord, be the LOVE for which we long.*

L: And then we pray for healing, Lord. Years and disease take a toll on our bodies, leaving our souls with concerns and doubts.

P: *But your healing transforms all that is foul. Lord, be the HEALING for which we pray.*

W: *If we are enslaved, free us, Lord.*

M: *If we are restless, fulfill us, Lord.*

A: *For you are our POWER, Lord, and our HOPE!*

W: *If we are empty, fill us, Lord.*

M: *If we are alone, dwell with us, Lord.*

A: *For you are our LOVE and COMFORT, Lord.*

W: *If we are broken, reform us in your image, Lord.*

M: *If we are sinful, forgive us and redirect us, Lord.*

A: *For you are the Lord our God, who is our POWER – our HOPE – our LOVE – and our HEALING. You alone have what we need, and it is to you that we turn. Thank you for providing for our needs, and for doing so in such a loving way.*

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

Arise, Your Light Is Come!



*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones, and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the win; God's power will make us strong.*

*** Blessing**

L: Friends, go out and run the race of faith, with all the energy and strength God has given you.

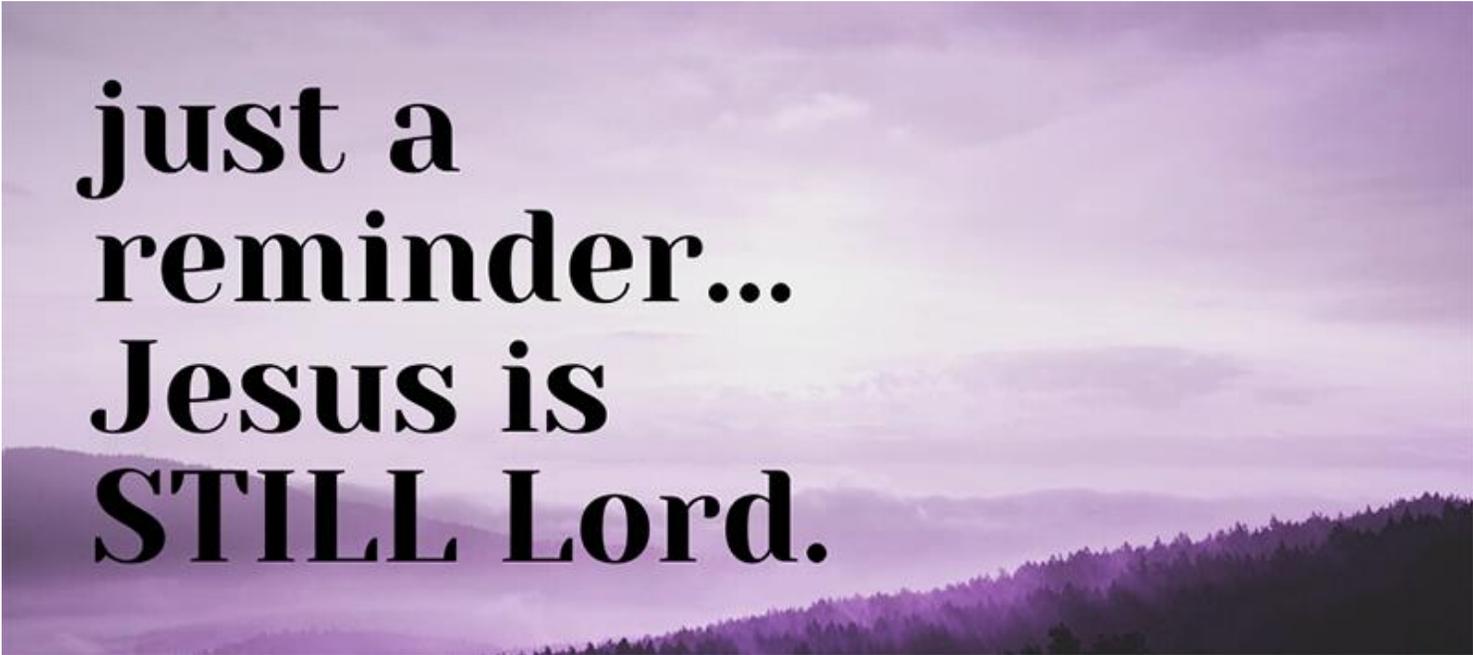
P: *We will hold in our hearts God's love for us, trusting that God gives power to the weak, and strength to the powerless.*

L: Be an enthusiastic witness that others might be drawn to God. And may the blessings of God

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***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.*



**just a
reminder...
Jesus is
STILL Lord.**