

A graphic featuring a white dove in flight, set against a background of stylized flames in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The dove is positioned on the right side, facing left, with its wings spread. The flames are on the left and bottom, creating a sense of movement and light.

Life in the Spirit

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
July 12, 2020 **10:00am Service**



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

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Donna Casey

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

Solvitur ambulando is a Latin phrase which means "It is solved by walking around." We are reminded that oftentimes, when working on a problem, taking a walk can have beneficial effects on our bodies, minds and souls. Sometimes it helps to get our minds off of a problem, and the answer comes to us.

"All truly great thoughts are conceived by walking."

– Friedrich Nietzsche

Nelson Mandela in *Long Walk to Freedom*, said, "I could not imagine that the future I was walking toward could compare in any way to the past that I was leaving behind."

Call to Worship

L: We come to worship this day, O God, aware that when hope is overcome by despair, we have the assurance that you restore us to life.

P: ***We cling to that assurance because, when compared to the kind of life you desire for us, there are times when the way we live, feels more like death.***

L: We are not the first to feel this way, for Israel once felt like a valley of dry bones, and you sent your prophet to call them to life.

A: ***Thank you for being a God of abundant life, and for calling us to truly LIVE life, walking with your Spirit. We praise your name for our calling, asking that you would make us faithful in every way.***

*Hymn of Praise # 316

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure.
Until with Thee I will one will, To do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me, Glows with Thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life, Of Thine eternity.*



Prayer of Confession

O God, we know that we are not resurrection conscious, because we think resurrection is only something that happens AFTER death. And yet, we know that by NOT considering the daily effect that sine has on us, we are not nearly as alive as we could be, because we ignore the possibility of being resurrected to new life. Forgive us for being dead to the abundant life you desire for us, and grant us the presence of your Spirit this day and every day. Our hope is that we might be raised above the influence of our human nature, into the likeness and love of your Son, our Savior. Give us a resurrection experience NOW, that we may be lifted out of the power and influence of sin, and into the joy of walking daily in the Spirit. 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: There is more to life than simply existing.

P: ***Life in the Spirit is walking alongside Christ, surrounded by love and grace.***

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

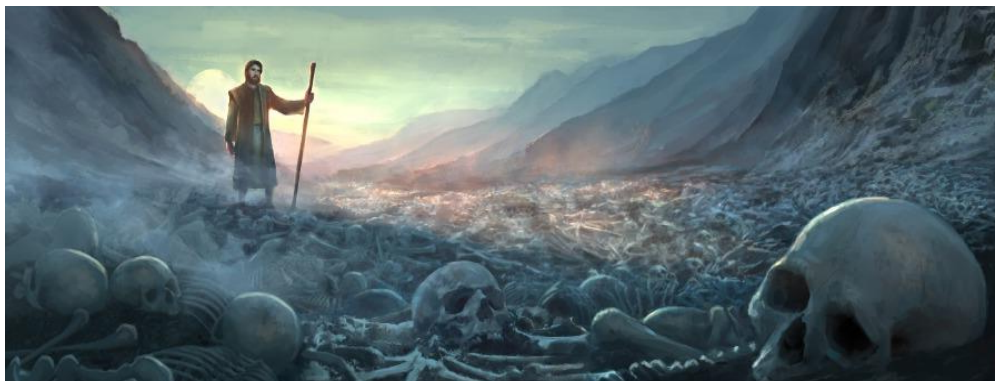
Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones



The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Special Music

Mighty to Save

Written by: Laura Story
Performed by the Praise Band

Second Lesson

Romans 8: 1-11

Life in the Spirit

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Sermon

Walking in the Spirit



Walk in the Spirit

Those who walk in the Spirit will show forth daily, moment-by-moment holiness. This is brought about by consciously choosing by faith to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide in thought, word, and deed

Got Questions

Responding to the Word

*Hymn #433

There's a Spirit in the Air

*There's a spirit in the air, Telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Living, working in our world.*

*Lose your shyness, find your tongue, Tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay, Live tomorrow's life today!*

*When believers break the bread, When a hungry child is fed.
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Living, working in our world.*

*Still the Spirit gives us light, Seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay, Live tomorrow's life today!*

Litany of Faith

L: The world is filled with stress, pain, sickness, grief, fear and loss, and so, at times, we wonder "Why us?"

P: *We have the choice to sit on our hands, and basically do nothing, paralyzed by our disappointment.*

L: Or, we can take action by calling on the name of Jesus, knowing that he, too, while he walked on the earth, knew the pains we suffer, and he weeps with us as we suffer, never leaving us alone, on the journey we call life.

P: *God knows what is best for us, and so we pray that God would give us WHAT is best for us, and give it WHEN it brings God honor and praise.*

L: May we readily and enthusiastically give our lives to God, asking that we be placed where God wills us to serve, putting ourselves in God's hands as those who are ready to serve, no matter what.

A: *May our journey through life, be one filled with joy and prayer and satisfaction, that we have faithfully lived as Christ's disciples.*

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 at the
back of the sanctuary.*

Prayer of Dedication: Loving God, in letting go of the gifts we offer, and releasing them for your use, help us to let go of any attempts or inclinations to control your activity in our lives. We pray for the reign of your free and graceful Spirit in our midst, and we give thanks for the opportunity we have to walk with you through life. Amen.

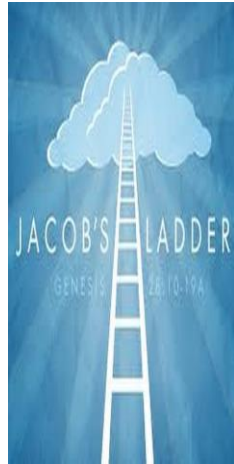
Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # screen

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

1- *We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
Soldiers of the cross.*

2 – *Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Soldiers of the cross.*



3 – *Children, do you love my Jesus?
Children, do you love my Jesus?
Children, do you love my Jesus?
Soldiers of the cross.*

4 – *If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him?
Soldiers of the cross.*

* Blessing

L: As we go from this place, remember this: No matter where we walk, God is with us. As we travel through the deepest valleys, and struggle to climb the highest mountains, Christ walks beside us.

P: *We will take heart in the fact that, wherever we go, Christ has already been there, and no matter where we go, Christ will be by our side.*

L: The journey through life in the Spirit, is filled with risk, and we are not in control, so we cannot predict the outcome.

P: *And yet, the journey in the Spirit always results in our growth, so it requires our total dependence on the One who made, redeems, and sustains us.*

L: Go with God and enjoy the journey. May the blessings of Almighty 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.*

