

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**July 26, 2020      10:00am Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE**  
**(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)**

# The Worship of God

July 26, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Brian Lindgren

## Preparing to Meet God

### Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

Frustration with life can be a healthy, if it gives us a “holy discontent,” and a vision for something better. As C.S. Lewis said in his essay, *The Weight of Glory*, “It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

So, what is your vision for human life? Perhaps this temporary time-out from normalcy gives us time to figure out what our true purpose is – what the meaning of life is. What is the focus of your life? Do you believe it is in tune with your God-given purpose? Something to ponder....

### Call to Worship

**L:** There are times when life seems to bring hurt to us, but God is able to bring good from those hurts.

**P:** *Those who love God are familiar with God's goodness, even when it seemingly comes out of evil.*

**L:** It is when we commit all of life to God, including our painful experiences, that God is able to make life a glorious adventure.

**P:** *We believe that God will bless us in all that life may bring. Praise the Lord!*

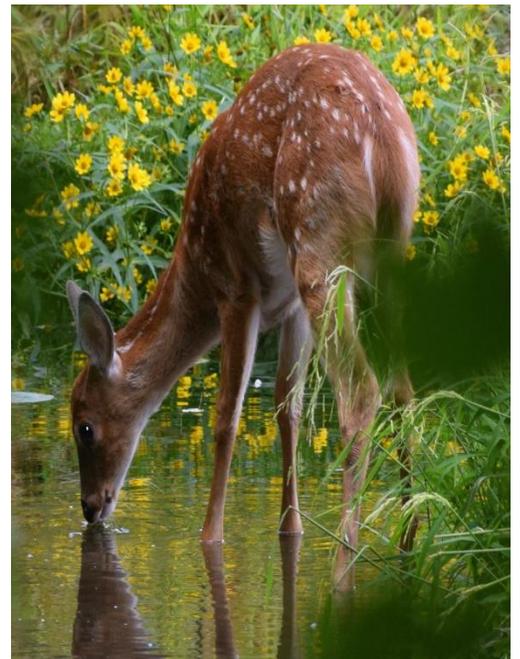
### \*Hymn of Praise *As the Deer*

*As the deer panteth for the water,  
So my soul longeth after thee.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship thee.*

*You alone are my strength, my shield.  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship thee.*

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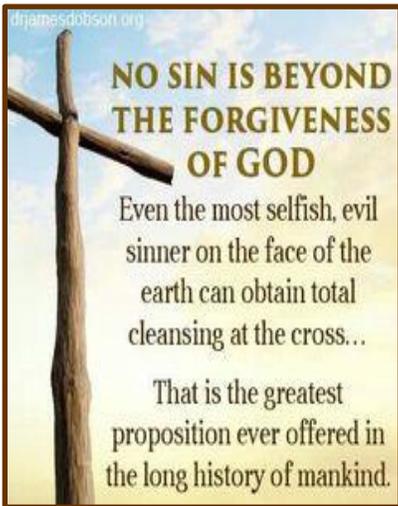


*You alone are my strength, my shield.  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship thee.*

### Prayer of Confession

***O God, we are acquainted with sorrow and hurt in our world, but sometimes we become bitter with all the pain and suffering we endure. We fail to see how good can come from that which seems so bad. Forgive us for pulling back from you to suffer our misery alone. Help us to live in a loving partnership with you and our sisters and brothers in faith, so that when one of us is hurt, we may love and support each another, and turn to you for comfort and guidance. 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: Our God reigns over all and God's mercy and grace is provided to all who turn to Christ as their Savior.

***P: Thanks be to God for this priceless and precious gift.***

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

#### Responsive Reading

Psalm 105: 1-11

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

***P: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.***

L: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

***P: He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth.***

L: *He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham,*

***P: His sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.'***

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## Special Music

### Second Lesson

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

The Parables of the Mustard Seed, Hidden Treasures, New and Old

*He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'*

*He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'*

*'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

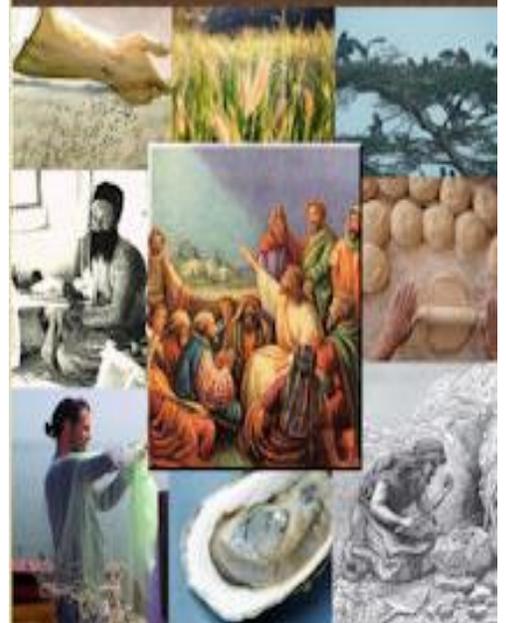
*'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

*'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'*

And we know that  
in **ALL** things  
**GOD** works for the good of  
those who **LOVE** him,  
who have been called  
according to **his purpose.**

## Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

Dr. Todd D. Baker



## Responding to the Word

\*Hymn # 384

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

*O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow,  
May richer, fuller be.*

*O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in thy sunshine's blaze its day,  
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O joy that sleekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red,  
Life that shall endless be.*

### 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 or send it in to the church. Thank you!*

**Prayer of Dedication:** Loving God, we give you thanks for all the ways you provide for us. May we use these gifts to further the work of your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## Going Out to Serve God

\* Hymn # 307

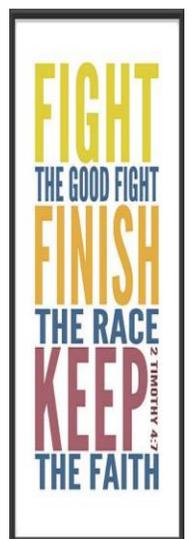
*Fight the Good Fight*

*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.*



**\* Blessing**

In the words of the hymn, *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

L: God of the ages, thy love divine hath led us in the past;

**P: *In this free land by thee our lot is cast.***

L: Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay.

**P: *Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.***

L: May God's blessings dwell in your heart and in your home this week.

**\*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.*

