



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 13, 2021 **Worship Service**



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The Worship of God

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader:

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

Today's theme is that of IMAGE. Our O.T. lesson reminds us that God's choice of a king was not the oldest, strongest, or seemingly wisest of Jesse's sons; rather, it was David, his youngest son who was out watching the sheep for he wasn't considered to be worthy. In a world where image and appearance seem to count for so much, we are taught that God does not look on us as the world does. God knows what is in our hearts and that is what really matters.



Originally, the word "glamour" referred to a spell of concealment practiced by witches and wizards – like King Arthur's sorcerer, Merlin, who swathed himself with a glamour spell so he could travel abroad as an old man, or a young woman, or as the sort of unexceptional person none of us really needs that kind of concealment. This week's scripture suggests that none of us really needs that kind of concealment. The so-called glamorous people of this world are not the jaded jetsetters with their fancy imported cars and their thousand-dollar-a-day health spas. The truly beautiful people are each and every one of us, created as we all are in the image of God.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: The Christian life is not a means of material gain, but a source of spiritual blessing.

P: ***We enjoy the physical life God gives, but our faith assures an even fuller life for those who are faithful to God's plan and purpose.***

L: Faith gives us courage when fear would discourage us, for we know Christ is our source of strength.

P: ***Praise God for faith through which we are granted the courage to live as Christ's disciples.***

*Hymn of Praise #464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we acknowledge that we are impressed by things that do not matter to you in the least. Our heads are turned by education, power, pedigree, looks and money. We confuse intelligence with wisdom, family name with honor, positions of influence with integrity, looks with character, and money with dignity. Generosity, kindness, humility, and selflessness are more to your liking, but we confess that we do not always honor these qualities. We push for the awards, the accolades, the praise and the recognition of our peers. All the while, Lord, we are full of self-doubt, afraid of being exposed as phonies – as being less than we pretend to be. We live in the shadow of an illusion of our own making, yet we feel powerless to stop the charade. Forgive us, dear Lord. Heal our brokenness, forgive our stubbornness and pride, and grant us the mercy to confront our own hypocrisy. By your grace, renew a right mind and heart within us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to ask for your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

- L: Hear the Good News: God was in Christ, reconciling the world to God's self.
P: God no longer holds our misdeeds against us.
 L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –
P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Meeting God in the Word



Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

II Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17 New Life in Christ



So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have

died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Second Lesson

I Samuel 15: 34- 16:13

The Anointing of David

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Sermon

How Much Does Image Matter?

Responding to the Word

*Hymn #344

Christ of the Upward Way

*Christ of the upward way, my guide divine,
Where you have set your feet, may I place mine;
And move and march wherever you have trod,
Keeping face forward up the hill of God.*

*Give me the heart to hear, your voice and will.
That without fault or fear, I may fulfill
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest,*

Like one who would not bring less than the best.

*Christ of the upward way, my guide divine,
Where you have set your feet, may I place mine;
And when your last call comes serene and clear,
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."*

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God the Father, who is the Lord of life and the Creator of the world, and the work of creation is full of his glory.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who dwelt among us, and experienced death for all humanity, so that we could share in God's glory.

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, by which the love of God dwells within us, and our faith in God will make its own power felt through love.

We believe that the church is a spiritual community, founded in Christ, to serve God and the whole human family.

We believe in the Kingdom of God, both in this world and in the world to come, and this Kingdom is from everlasting to everlasting.

This is the faith we affirm.

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



God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn #420

God of Grace and God of Glory

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! The hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.*

*Grant us wisdom grant us courage,
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's waring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be,
Armored with all Christlike graces, pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor thee! that we fail not them nor thee!*

Blessing

L: Return now to the world and go gladly, despite your fears or perceived limitations.

P: *We will remember that we were created in God's image, and God has a purpose for each of us.*

L: You need do nothing more than reflect the image of God within you to the world, remembering that your true identity comes from God and from no other.

P: *We will be faithful to our calling, looking to God for direction and strength.*

L: May the blessings of ...

Response

*He Is Lord - He is Lord, he is Lord. He has risen from the dead, And he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, Every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

