



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 20, 2021 **Worship Service**



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

(302) 378-4446 **www.newcov-church.org**

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader:

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



Some people complain that God put thorns on roses, while others praise God for putting roses on thorns.

In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

L: God's name deserves our praise in this house of worship.

P: We will praise the One True God here and everywhere we go.

*Hymn of Praise

Shine, Jesus, Shine

192, *Glory to God*

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me. **Refrain***

Refrain: Shine, Jesus shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. **Refrain***

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. **Refrain***

Prayer of Confession

O God, when we hear of David and Goliath, we confess that we want to be the hero – that we want to defeat all of our own giants – and that we want to boast and gloat and revel in our victory. And so we confess that we have missed the point entirely. Teach us, Lord, that you alone are the hero, that you alone are the one who wins great battles, and you alone are the one who deserves all glory, honor and praise. We confess that we want to operate on our own strength – that we want the recognition and the glory for ourselves. Forgive us for being so self-centered and turn us toward the path of faithfulness. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Our God is all powerful and merciful, desiring to reconcile 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



Children's Message Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

1 Samuel 17 – selected verses

David and Goliath



Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath...He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.' And the Philistine said, 'Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together.' When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. David was the youngest and he went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

Now Saul and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left someone in charge of the sheep, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle

line, shouting the war cry. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. The Israelites said, 'Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely, he has come up to defy Israel. And Saul sent for David and David said to him, 'Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy...and David said, 'The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.' So Saul said to David, 'Go, and may the Lord be with you!'

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, 'I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.' So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

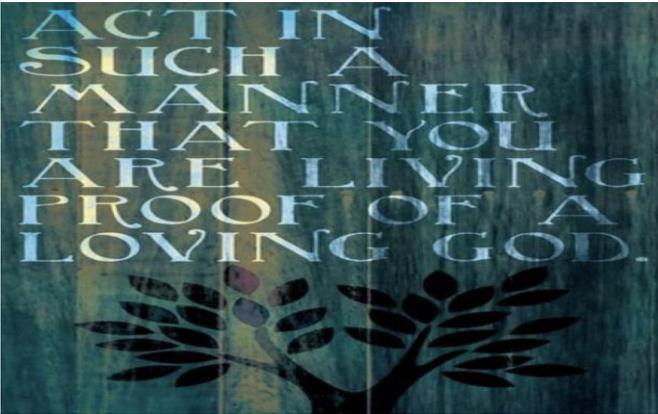
The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, 'Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.' But David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand.'

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him...Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. The troops of Israel and Judah pursued them, and when they returned, they plundered their camp. David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem; On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. Saul said to him, 'Whose son are you, young man?' And David answered, 'I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.'

Second Lesson *II Corinthians 6: 1-13* *Call to Open Our Hearts Wide in Spite of Troubles*

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, *At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.*' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beating, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless night, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.



We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return - I speak as to children - open wide your hearts also.

Sermon

Open Wide Your Hearts!

Responding to the Word

***Hymn**

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

Sung to tune of Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun #265



*Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we be one.*

*Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.*

*Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,
Nor to look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.*

*May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving, we receive, and in forgiving, are forgiven.*

*Dying, we live, and are reborn, through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.*

***Affirmation of Faith**

- A Portion of The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Question 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer: *The almighty and ever-present power of God whereby he still upholds, as it were by his own hand, heaven and earth together with all creatures, and rules in such a way that leaves and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and unfruitful years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, and everything else, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.*

Question 28: What advantage comes from acknowledging God's creation and providence?

Answer: *We learn that we are to be patient in adversity, grateful in the midst of blessing, and to trust our faithful God and Father for the future, assured that no creature shall separate us from his love, since all creatures are so completely in his hand, that without his will, they cannot even move.*

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***Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

#370

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown, has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

Blessing

L: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

P: *And those who know God's name put their trust in our Redeemer, for he has not forsaken those who seek him.*

L: You, O Lord, will never forsake those who seek you,

P: *For you call us to lives of service, to be used to honor you.*

L: May we go in peace, using each day to truly seek God, knowing that God's Spirit goes with us.
And 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.*

