



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 28, 2020 **10:00am Service**



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision Lay Leader:

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude



Some scholars like to draw parallels between the sacrifice of Isaac by his father, Abraham, and the sacrifice of Jesus, offered by his Father for our sins. It is true that each of them was offered on a hill, and each of them carried either the wood for the fire, or a cross on which to be crucified. Many scholars even believe that it was the very same hill upon which they were both offered, though about 1,800 years apart. And one might point to the ram caught in the thicket of thorns, or to Jesus' crown of thorns. Whether or not you choose to agree with these parallels, it is sure that Abraham was willing to offer his son, out of obedience to God's plan for him, and Jesus was willing to do the same to save humanity for themselves. Oh that we would catch a vision of that kind of sacrifice, and that our faith and trust in God would be so deep.

Call to Worship

L: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me," Jesus said.

P: Here, in this place, we experience the welcome of God that breaks down barriers. We will share that welcome with one another, and with all we meet.

L: "Whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me."

P: We are here to give glory to God, who is righteous and merciful. We will worship in spirit and truth.

L: "Whoever gives a cup of cool water will have their reward."

P: Our reward is modest, and profound – to know God, enjoy God, and serve God. May our worship be a cup of cool water, for all who come near.

*Hymn of Praise

Gather Us In

Prayer of Confession

We want to be your disciples, O God, but we are frightened when we hear how demanding discipleship really is. So much of our lives seems to be in conflict with what you require. Forgive us when we make decisions based on personal interest, rather than on our commitment to Christ. Help us to see all of our activities as opportunities to be faithful disciples for Christ, in whose name we pray. 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: When we honestly face who we are, and say before God and one another that we have sinned,
- P: ***Then, in Christ Jesus, we are set free from sin, to live in the freedom and love of God. We will delight in listening to our righteous Master, and enjoy God's gift of eternal life.***
- 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

Genesis 22: 1-14

The Command to Sacrifice Isaac

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

Special Music

Lord, Reign In Me

Brenton Brown

Second Lesson

Matthew 10: 40-42

Rewards of Disciples



'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

Sermon

Back to the Basics

Responding to the Word

* Hymn # 514

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*Hospitality Prayer

Dear and beloved stranger -

Please eat this food with us, that we may all be nourished.

Please share this walk with us, that we may all know nature's peace.

Please come and rest in this warm house, that we may come to know each other.

Please sleep under these soft blankets, that we may all know safety.

And please pray this prayer with us, that the Spirit of God may guide us all.



The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Gifts

Call for Offering – Prayer of Dedication

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # 432

Song of Hope

* Blessing

L: May we go from this place remembering that, in order to glorify God, we must put ourselves aside -

P: ***So that we may become channels of God's love for others, we must make God's plan for our lives supreme, taking precedence over our personal desires.***

L: And now may the blessings of Almighty God...

*Response

He Is Lord

