



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 6, 2021 **Worship Service**



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

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The Worship of God

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader:

WHAT IS SIN?

- Sin is 'missing the mark' (and God has set the standards for us)



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

From time to time, I have been asked in the academic classrooms where I have taught to define what I mean by "sin." I always respond by saying, "Sin is what diminishes the humanity of another person and of the self." When I lie or cheat or commit adultery, I am diminishing the humanity of the other person and I am diminishing my own humanity...Anything that makes "homo sapiens" less human is contrary to the will of God. Sin is more than just breaking some rules; it is more than just violating a verse of scripture here or there. It is what hurts the humanity of another. To this day, when I am questioned about what I mean by "sin," I answer the question as posed, but I do not leave it there. I continue on to the great work of the Spirit of God inside each of us. Sin does not have the last word! The Spirit renews us and moves us into a relationship with the resurrected Christ!

-Tony Campolo

I think liberals tend to think admitting we are sinful is the same as having low self-esteem. And then conservatives equate sin with immorality. So, one end of the church tells us that sin is an antiquated notion that only makes us feel bad about ourselves, so we should avoid mentioning it at all. While the other end of the church tells us that sin is the same as immorality and totally avoidable if you can just be a good, squeaky-clean Christian. Yet, when sin is boiled down to low self-esteem or immorality, then it becomes something we can control or limit in some way, rather than something we are simply in bondage to. The reality is that I cannot, by my own understanding, or effort, disentangle myself from self-interest – and when I think that I can...I'm basically trying to do what is only God's to do.

- Nadia Bolz-Weber, Ash Wednesday sermon

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 138

L: We give you thanks, O Lord, with all that is within us;

P: We praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;

L: For your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.

P: As soon as we pray, you answer us; you encourage us by giving us strength. Every king in all the earth will thank you, Lord, for all of them will hear your words.

L: Yes, they will sing about the Lord's ways, for the glory of the Lord is very great.

P: Our Lord is great, caring for the humble, and keeping his distance from the proud.

L: Though we are surrounded by troubles, you will protect us from the anger of our enemies.

P: You extend your hand, and the power of your right hand saves us.

A: The Lord will work out his plans for our lives – for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.

***Hymn of Praise**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

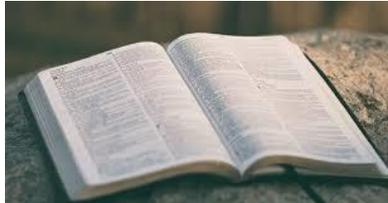
#288 blue hymnal

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

Meeting God in the Word



Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Mark 3: 20-35

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

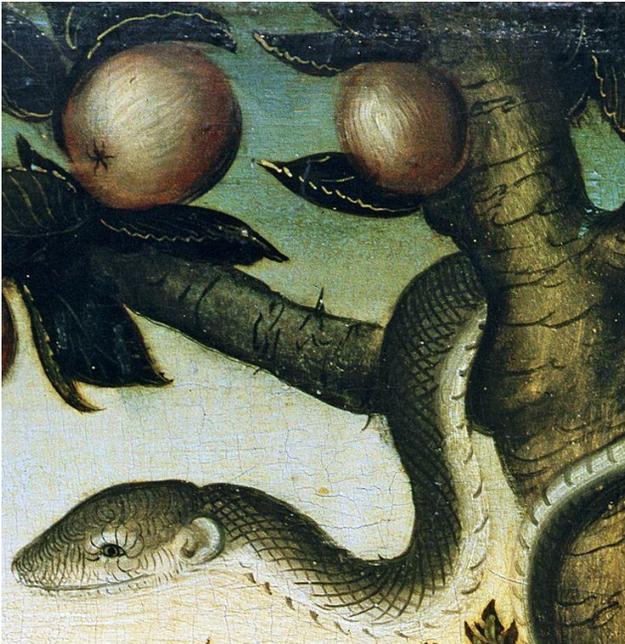
'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' - for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Second Lesson

Genesis 3: 1-19

The First Sin and Its Punishment



Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' To the woman he said, I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.' ⁷And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Sermon

Making the Wrong Choices

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

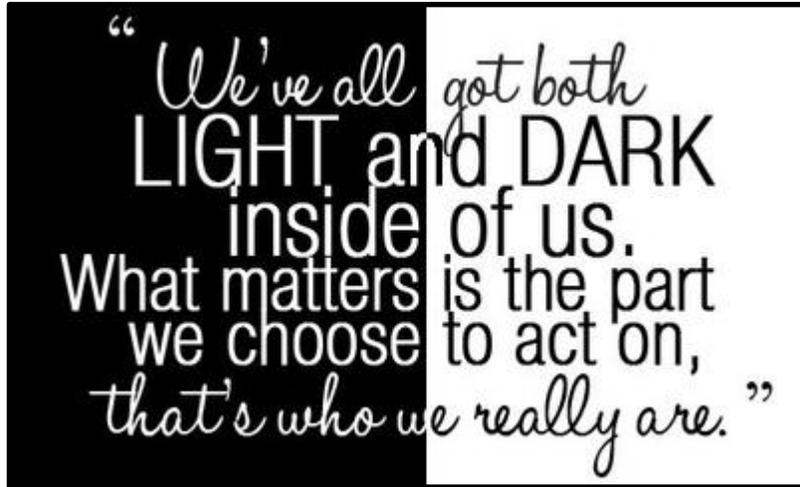
#285, blue hymnal

God, you spin the whirling planets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.

We, created in your image, Would a true reflection be,
Of your justice, grace, and mercy, And the truth that makes us free.

*You have called us to be faithful, In our life and ministry.
 We respond in grateful worship, Joined in one community.
 When we blur your gracious image, Focus us and make us whole.
 Healed and strengthened as your people, We move onward toward your goal.*

*God, your Word is still creating, Calling us to life made news.
 Now reveal to us fresh vistas, Where there's work to dare and do.
 Keep us clear of all distortion, Polish us with loving care.
 Thus, new creatures in your image, We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*



***Affirmation of Faith**

L: When we choose to hate instead of love,

P: *Your grace is greater.*

L: When we choose impatience over patience,

P: *Your grace is greater.*

L: When we speak the language of hurt instead of healing,

P: *Your grace is greater.*

L: When darkness seems to drown out light,

P: *Your grace is greater.*

A: *God, help us to always choose love, patience, healing and light. And yet, we are so grateful that, when we do not make the wisest choice, your grace is always greater.*

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#383, blue hymnal

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly thine!*

*May thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire:
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee,
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!*

*While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.*

*When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll.
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!*

Blessing

L: God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

P: *From everlasting to everlasting, we have turned to God as our Creator and Provider.*

L: That is why we follow Jesus the Christ, as our example of being vulnerable in our sin,

P: *That we might be made strong through the forgiveness we receive through him.*

A: *May all that we do and say with our lives, enable us to become faithful and obedient to the God we know, love, and serve, both now and forevermore.*

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.*

