

JOHN 3:14-15

JUST AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SNAKE IN THE WILDERNESS,  
SO THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP,  
THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE IN HIM.

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**March 14, 2021 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

## The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Alice Megonigal

### Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

FOR GOD  
SO LOVED  
THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE  
**HIS ONE AND  
ONLY SON,**  
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES  
IN HIM  
SHALL NOT  
PERISH BUT HAVE  
**ETERNAL  
LIFE.**  
JOHN 3:16

*No Bible verse is more quoted than John 3: 16. Believers are taught at an early age about the love and grace of God. Richard Rohr, in *Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self*, says “Grace is not something God gives; grace is who God is. Grace is God’s official job description. Grace is what God does to keep all things that God has created in love alive – forever. If we are to believe the primary witnesses – the mystics, the saints, the transformed people – an unexplainable goodness is at work in the universe.” Praise God for the unconditional love and grace given to those who do not deserve it, but who benefit from it nonetheless.*

#### Call to Worship

- L: God’s love for our world is strong and true, unconditional and whole.  
**P: God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us.**  
 L: As we journey through these Lenten days, may we come to appreciate God’s sacrificial love.  
**P: May our lives be bathed in God’s love, to the point that we can do no other thing than share that love.**  
**A: Let us sing of God’s love, rejoicing in the abundant life with which we are blessed.**

\*Hymn of Praise # 686, red book

*God of Our Life*



*God of our life, through all the circling years,  
 We trust in thee.  
 In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
 Thy hand we see.  
 With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
 We own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.  
 God of the past, our times are in thy hand.  
 With us abide.  
 Lead us by faith to hope’s true promised land.  
 Be thou our guide.  
 With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
 And faith’s fair vision changes into sight.*

God of the coming years, through paths unknown,  
We follow thee.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.  
Our refuge be.  
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, you love us dearly, yet how indifferent we are. We take your love for granted without considering the price you paid, or the blessing you give when your love is accepted. Forgive us for requiring such depth of love, and then not responding with lives of faith and trust. Fill our hearts, minds, and lives with strong belief in your Son as our crucified Savior, that we may receive the eternal blessing of your love. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

- L: Hear the Good News: God is rich in mercy.
- P: **Because of Christ's sacrifice, we receive the gift of new life in Christ.**
- L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –
- P: **Thanks be to God that we are saved by God's grace!**

Meeting God in the Word

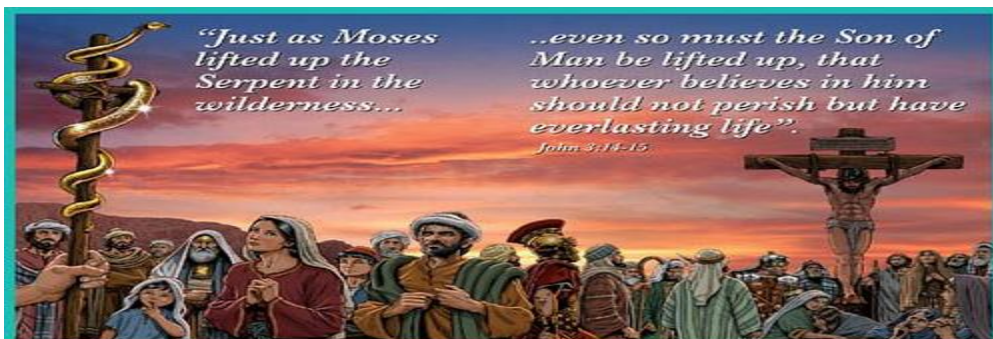
**Children's Message**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

Numbers 21: 4-9

*From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.*





*Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut its glories in,  
When Christ, the great Redeemer, died  
For human creatures' sin.*

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away;  
'Tis all that I can do.*

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

L: How can we sing the Lord's song? We live in a land whose culture puts ease before ethics.

**P: *Jesus lived in such a land, yet HE sang the Lord's song.***

L: How can we sing the Lord's song? We live in a land whose businesses put success before service.

**P: *Jesus lived in such a land, yet HE sang the Lord's song.***

L: How can we sing the Lord's song? We live in a land whose politics often put power before principle.

**P: *Jesus lived in such a land, yet HE sang the Lord's song.***

L: How can we sing the Lord's song? We live in a land whose religion too often puts conformity before conscience.

**P: *Jesus lived in such a land, yet HE sang the Lord's song.***

L: How can we sing the Lord's song for the faithful life sometimes is a lonely life and a costly one.

**P: *Jesus has promised that, as the Lord was in him, so shall the Lord be in us.***

#### 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 in the back of the sanctuary.*

##### Prayer of Dedication

## Going Out to Serve God

\* Hymn # 203 red book

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

**Refrain: *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;  
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

*Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
Silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.     **Refrain***

*Neighbors are wealthy and poor,  
Varied in color and race;  
Neighbors are near us and far away.     **Refrain***

*These are the ones we should serve;  
These are the ones we should love;  
All these are neighbors to us and you.     **Refrain***

*Loving puts us on our knees,  
Willing to wash others' feet;  
This is the way we should live like you.     **Refrain***

**\* Blessing**

L: May God send us forth on our Lenten journey, through the wilderness of our world.

**P: *As Moses gave the Hebrew people God's symbol of forgiveness and hope, may God give to us, a spirit of forgiveness and grace.***

L: And may the love, grace and fellowship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forevermore.

**\*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.*

