

SALVATION IS FREE, BUT
DISCIPLESHIP
IS NOT!

SALVATION

DISCIPLESHIP

**WEIGHING THE COST
OF NOT SERVING GOD**

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
March 21, 2021 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



Want to see a miracle? Take a small seed and put it under several inches of dirt. Give it light, water and fertilizer. It doesn't matter that the ground is a ZILLION TIMES the weight of the seed. The seed will push it back! Never underestimate the power of a seed.

James, the epistle writer, wasn't a farmer. But he knew the power of a seed sown in fertile soil. "Those who are peacemakers," he said, "will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness." (James 3:18)

How good are you at sowing seeds of peace? Jesus modeled peace through acts of love, washing the feet of men he knew would betray him, and honoring the woman who sinned, whom society had scorned.

Want to see a miracle? Why not consider planting "a word of love" heart-deep in a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer and watch what happens! - Max Lucado, The Power of a Seed, max.lucado.com 1/24/14

Call to Worship

L: On these days of our Lenten journey,

P: Christ goes with us side by side.

L: While we gather here for worship,

P: May our lives be focused on the work to which we are called, with praise for the opportunity to serve, and commitment to do our best.

L: As we sing, pray, and listen,

P: May God's Spirit deep within us enliven us,

L: And may this time of worship,

P: Be for us, a constant guide.

L: Now let us sing with joy and vigor,

P: As we learn how to serve Christ more fully.

*Hymn of Praise # 475, red book *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,*

*Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer:
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.*

Prayer of Confession

Hear our confession of sin, O God, and grant us forgiveness for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. We come as seekers, desiring new life and release from our guilt. We believe that Jesus, lifted high upon the cross, has drawn us into his presence, where we are revived by your love. May your Spirit breathe new life into us, that we may walk in newness of life, now and forever. 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: Because of Christ's obedience to the point of death,
P: We are restored to life as it is meant to be. Thanks be to God for this great gift!
 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 *Jeremiah 31: 31-34* *The New Covenant*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put



my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

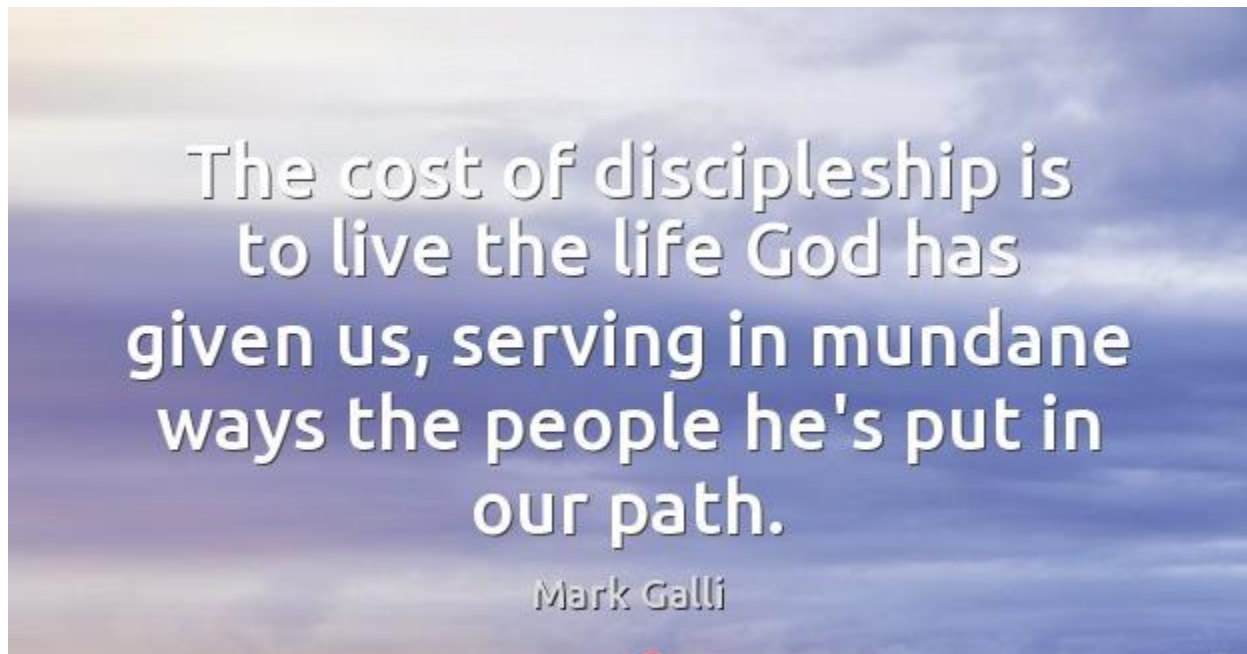
Second Lesson

John 12: 20-33

The Cost of Serving God

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



Sermon

The Cost of Loving and Serving God

Responding to the Word

***Hymn # 250, red book**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

*In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

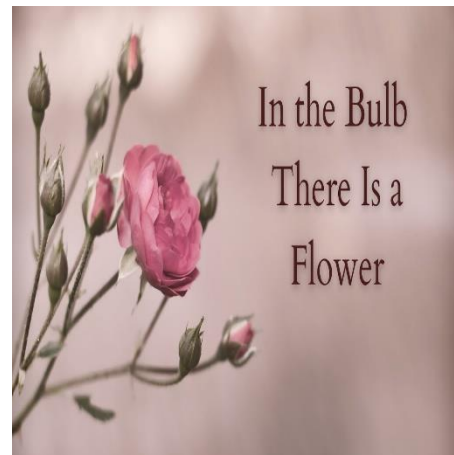
Cares Chorus:

*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 # 821, red book



How Can I Keep from Singing?

*My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn,
That hails a new creation.*

**Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?**

*Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain***

*What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain***

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain***

* **Blessing**

L: Go in peace, willingly giving up something if it brings you closer to the Lord, who gave up so much for each of us.

P: ***To feel even closer to him, we will take on something – someone's guilt, the care of someone in their sickness, and we will even share someone's fear of death. We share these as Lenten sacrifices.***

L: May God put your observance of Lent to work for your growth in faith, hope, and love, for the sake of him who bore our burdens and carried our sorrows, even to the point of death. And may the blessings...

***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.*