



New Covenant Presbyterian Church

March 22, 2020



10:00 am Service

1125 Jamison Corner Road, Middletown, DE

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

The Worship of God

4th Sunday of Lent March 22, 2020

(Bulletin to follow the YouTube online service)

Welcome

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

Questions, questions, questions. Around Jesus, there were always questions. There were questions about WHO he was – questions about WHAT he did – and even questions about HOW he could do what he did. There were questions about life and death – faith and belief – right and wrong – and questions about who was on which side. Jesus healed a blind man, and there were so many questions. “Who sinned? This man or his parents?” “Who is this man who healed him? What did he do?” “What do you say about him?” “Do you believe?” “Do you want to be his disciple?”

Today’s gospel lesson raises many questions: About guilt – blindness which isn’t always physical – and forgiveness. And yet, it also tells of one man who found healing and answers – one man who was given sight and insight! It is the story of many who only found questions – who were afraid to find new answers and clung to old answers. It even tells of a family divided because of the questions. It is the story of faith and doubt – of belief and disbelief - healing and acceptance - and of fear and rejection. Come and listen that you might find both questions and answers for them.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: We come seeking truth and healing this day, O God, praying that you would give us clear sight, and forgiveness for our sins.

P: *We acknowledge that we are spiritually blind to some degree, and we need you to open our eyes, in order that we may see our sin, and receive your love and forgiveness.*

L: Christ is the Light which shines in the darkness, illuminating all that we do and say, and showing us those places, where we need to amend our ways.

P: *May the Light of Christ shine upon us, healing our blindness, and making us faithful disciples.*

*Hymn of Praise

Come, Christians Join to Sing

*Come, Christians join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before his throne rejoice;
Praise to his gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!*

*Come, lift your voice on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; To us he’ll condescend;
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!*

*Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven’s blissful shore, His goodness we’ll adore,
Singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen! (repeat 1st verse)*

Meeting God in the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

John 9: 1-17

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg? Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

Sermon

Blinded By Guilt

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we'd first begun.*

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 has provided for us in so many ways. All that we have truly comes from God.

Giving of our resources is an essential part of discipleship. We feel grateful for our blessings and we share a good portion of them to do Christ's work. Since we can not gather together for worship, we encourage each of you to send in your tithes and offerings so that the church can continue its ministry.

Going Out to Serve

***Blessing**

L: May the God who forgives all sins, wiping away our guilt,

P: Bless us and keep us in the loving arms of our Creator.

L: God wishes to heal us from all that ails us,

P: Healing our blindness and opening our eyes to the abundant life that is possible, through our loving God.

A: Thanks be to God for this precious gift!

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

***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*