

Jesus said to him,
“I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life.”

-John 14:6



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
May 10, 2020 **Worship Service**



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

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

pastornewcov@gmail.com

The Worship of God

5th Sunday of Easter May 10, 2020

(Bulletin to follow the online service)

Welcome

Dr. Carol C. Fisher

Preparing Ourselves for Worship ...

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis



At the time Jesus said, "I am the way" to his disciples, they were confused and bewildered. It was Thursday evening of Holy Week and Jesus was speaking of leaving them. They wanted direction; they needed answers – some very specific ones. Just like us, they were at a crossroads and they wanted a map – something laid out in black and white, or better yet, in living color.

Thomas' question was a good one: "Lord, we do not know where you are going; How can we know the way?" The disciples had many questions just as we do.

Too often our questions worry us and keep us from trusting God and having unreserved faith in Christ. We want explanations and we doubt and worry when we don't know the answers. And, to all our questions, Jesus says simply, "Do not let your hearts be troubled...Believe in me...I am the way."

Jesus shows us the way into God's presence. He opens the door and puts out the welcome mat but we must go in. May God give us the wisdom and strength not to allow our questions or doubts to worry us so much that we miss out on the real blessing of the life of faith.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: God's message is quite clear to us, and yet we act as if we don't know how to live. Scripture tells us that we have two basic choices in life – either to live as faithful disciples according to God's Word, or not.

P: ***We have learned many ways to appear committed to God, even when we are not.***

L: We cannot pretend forever. Ultimately, either our obedience proves our fidelity, or our disobedience receives its just reward.

P: ***May God help us to make our discipleship more than lip service, so that our lives will show our commitment to live as God created us to live.***

*Hymn of Praise

*I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art
(Singing led by the NCPC Choir)*

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, Reigning omnipotent in every place;
So come, O King, and our whole being sway, Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.*

*Thou art the life, by which alone we live, And all our substance and our strength receive;
Sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, And give us strength in every trying hour.*

*Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness, No harshness hast thou and no bitterness;
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, That we may dwell in perfect unity.*

Meeting God in the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*



First Lesson

1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Special Music

Breathe (This is the Air I Breathe)
Solo by Landa Lindgren

Michael W. Smith



*This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe.
Your holy presence living in me.*

*This is my daily bread. This is my daily bread.
Your very word spoken to me.*

And I, I'm desperate for you. And I, I'm lost without you.

*This is the air I breathe. This is the air I breathe.
Your holy presence living in me.*

*This is my daily bread. This is my daily bread.
Your very word spoken to me.*

And I, I'm desperate for you. And I, I'm lost without you.

And I, I'm desperate for you. And I, I'm lost without you.

Second Lesson

John 14: 1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, *'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'* Jesus said to him, *'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'*

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, *'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'*

Sermon

How Can We Know the Way?

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(Hymn led by Brian and Landa Lindgren)



*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

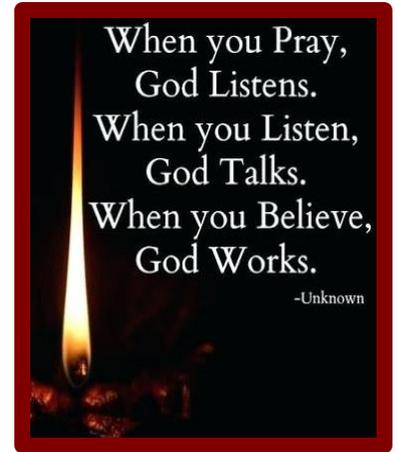
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus:

*I cast all my cares upon you.
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime, that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

*God has 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

*To God Be the Glory
(Singing led by the NCPC Choir)*

*To God be the glory, great things he has done;
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

Refrain: *Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!*

*Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.
But purer, and higher, and greater will be,
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

Refrain: *Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!*

Blessing

My closing prayer and charge for you this day, can perhaps best be conveyed by the words of the great hymn writer, Charles Wesley, who wrote:

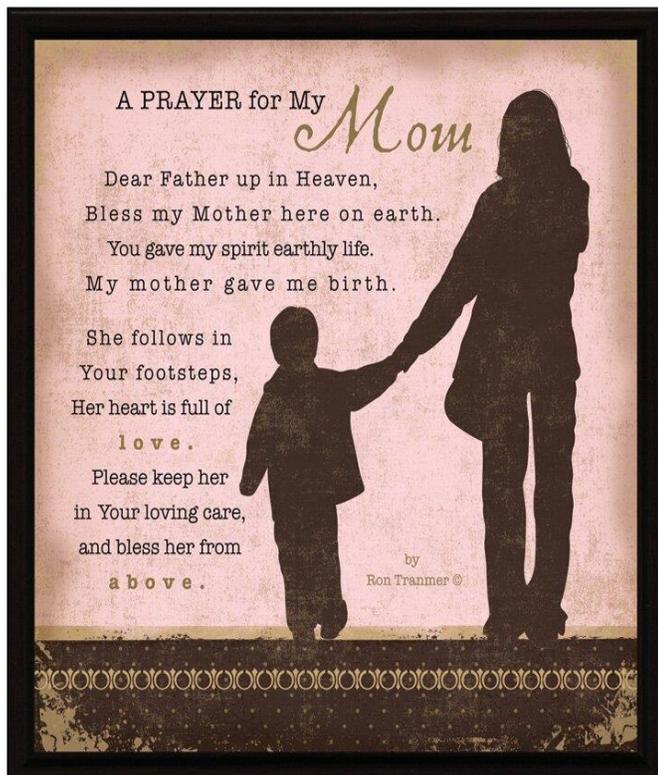
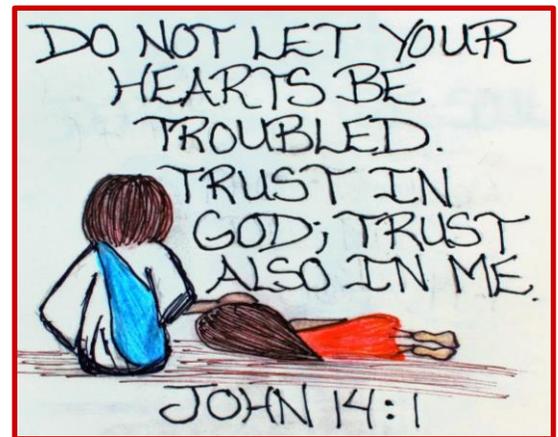
*Finish then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let it be;
Let us see Thy great salvation, Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

And may the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit...

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.*



*Happy Mother's Day
to all mothers
and those who have been blessed
with the opportunity
to mother another's child.*