



**"And he shall be like a tree planted by the
rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit
in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."**

Psalms 1:3 (KJV)

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
May 16, 2021 10:00am Service**



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

The Worship of God

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



The giant sequoia tree can measure hundreds of feet in height, 10 or more feet in girth and thousands of years in age, yet sequoias have very shallow root systems. The way they withstand the winds and stress of so many years is they intertwine their roots with others, thus drawing their strength from each other.

- Wiley Stephens

The entire biblical story never lets us forget that it moral achievements for use as a moral handbook.

This is the narrative of what God does to save us, now what we do to please him. As we read these narratives, we learn not to "take sides" too quickly, but rather, discern God's presence coming into view and his will being worked out all over the place, often in persons and places we least expect.

- Eugene Peterson, *Christianity Today*, June 15, 1998

Call to Worship

L: We gather to celebrate our faith and to worship the one true, living God.

P: ***We celebrate our Lord Jesus who leads us and is present for us.***

L: We celebrate our Lord who saves and cares for us.

P: ***We celebrate the Lord of light and life – of love and hope.***

L: We celebrate our Lord Jesus who provides for us and calls us to service.

P: ***We celebrate our Lord who loves us, and who nourishes us now and always.***

***Hymn of Praise # 14, red book** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends of earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, your love for us is deep, holding strong even as we struggle for truth, and even as gamble on other paths, and even when we are ready to give in to temptation. Walk with us on our journeys and help us see beyond all that is flashy and tempting, and beyond all the quick fixes that seem to call out to us. Keep our eyes fixed on you, who knew temptation, disappointment, and pain. And yet, in the midst of all these trials, you remained faithful. Holy One, help us to remember that you are always working for our good. Hold us in your grace, and help us to move beyond ourselves so that we may live and serve as Jesus did. 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's love has no end, and it can always be counted upon.

P: ***Thanks be to our God who is full of grace and mercy!***

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

I John 5: 9-13

The Testimony of God

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Second Lesson

Psalm 1 Two Ways to Live

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.



The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Sermon

Planted by Streams of Water

Responding to the Word

***Hymn**

As the Deer



*As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after thee;
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship thee.*

**Chorus: You alone are my strength, my shield,
To you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship thee.**

*I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy;
You alone are the real Joy-giver, and the Apple of my eye. **Chorus***

*You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King;
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything. **Chorus***

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who created the heavens and the earth, who made all things and called them good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who came from heaven and is above all others; who was born of Mary and gave his life for all; who bears witness to the truth of God, because God has given all things into his hand.

We believe that God bring us into union with Christ by putting the seal of his Holy Spirit within our hearts. All of us together form One Body of Christ, and we are called to serve one another through faith and discipleship to the glory of his name.

This is what we believe.

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 & Prayer of Dedication *Gracious God, your gifts to us are boundless – life and liberties, vibrant colors and melodious sounds, forgiveness and your divine presence, intelligence and creativity, work and worship, love and compassion. There is no end to your goodness and generosity toward us, and we thank you. We offer these gifts in response to all that you have shared with us, for we always and only give you what is already yours. Amen.*

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # 12, red book

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.*

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*



* Blessing

L: Go forth to be loving to each other always and everywhere.

P: We will be loving to friends, neighbors, strangers, the needy, our families, even toward those whom we may not even like.

L: Be helpful and compassionate to all everywhere.

P: We will be thankful now and always for the promise of eternal life.

L: 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.*