



the
CHRIST
centered
LIFE

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

May 24, 2020



Worship

**1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE
19709**

The Worship of God

7th Sunday of Easter May 24, 2020

(Bulletin to follow the online service)

Welcome

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude...

Sent forth into the world, Christians are called to be centered in Christ, one with him and one with the Father.



A young mother who knew she was dying said to her pastor, "I'm so afraid. Not for myself, nor do I fear death. I'm afraid for my children. I hate to leave them alone in this world." Then she prayed for them.

How should one pray for those left in an evil, hostile world? That they grow wise and strong? That they gain many friends and become powerful and wealthy? Should one pray that they be spared suffering, sickness, failure, and conflict? Should one pray that they marry well and are well employed?

Christ's prayer for his disciples was that they might be purified, reserved for sacred use, and made one with the Father even as he was one. The best gift of prayer is not that we receive great power and wonderful gifts, but rather that "we establish ourselves in the sense of God's presence." (Brother Lawrence)

Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote, "Prayer is neither chiefly begging for things, nor is it merely self-communion; it is the loftiest experience within the reach of any soul – communion with God."

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Come, walk in the way of the Lord with songs of gladness and joy.

P: *Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, both now and forevermore.*

***Hymn of Praise**

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

345

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives, Thy service find. In deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard, Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word, Rise up and follow thee.*

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee, The silence of eternity, Interpreted by love!*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness, 'Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess, The beauty of thy peace.*

Meeting God in the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

I John 5: 9-13

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.

Special Music

I Can Only Imagine
Soloist: Landa Lindgren

Mercy Me

Second Lesson

John 17: 6-19

Dr. Carol C. Fisher

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Sermon

The Four **C**'s – **C**alled, **C**onsecrated, and **C**entered in **C**hrist



Responding to the Word

Hymn

Seek Ye First

333



*Seek ye first the kingdom of God And his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!*

Affirmation of Faith

- A Portion of *The Westminster Confession of Faith* (1647)

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his church...

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

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.

