

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
May 21, 2023                      10:00am Service



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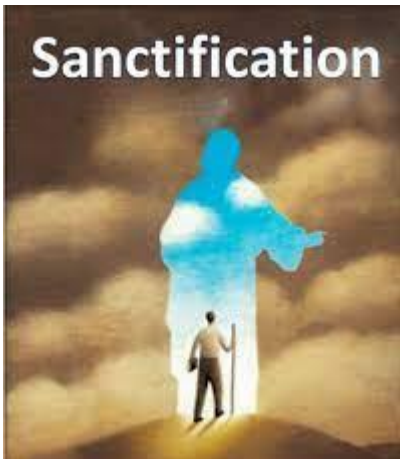
# The Worship of God

May 21, 2023    The Seventh Sunday After Easter

## Welcome and Announcements

## Sharing Our Vision

## Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*Sanctification – is one of those big theological words that confuse people. According to The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, it is “the realization or progressive attainment of likeness to God or to God’s intention for humanity. It may be regarded both as a status conferred by divine grace, and as a goal toward which to aim.” Surely, it is NOT a one-time event, and it is the focus of our gospel lesson from John ch. 17.*

*This chapter is Jesus’ high priestly prayer which naturally falls into 3 parts: Jesus’ prayer for himself, Jesus’ prayer for his disciples who will be left in the world following his ascension, and Jesus’ prayer for the universal church. Today’s lesson is the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this prayer. Let us remember that we are among Jesus’ disciples for whom he prayed, and then let us take up the call to service for which we are prepared.*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

**L:** Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread.

**P:** *For their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.*

**L:** They are like trees planted by streams of water which yield much fruit.

**A:** *O God, we come to worship this day, seeking to meet you and to delight in your law. Bless us with your presence.*

### Hymn # 138

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

*1-Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*



2-Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3-Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; There is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

4-Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**Prayer of Confession**

***We are willing servants, O God, when it comes to taking the name of Christ. But we find many excuses when it comes to actually living a consecrated life – one whose purpose is to love and serve you. Forgive us when we avoid the dedication and commitment needed to lead faithful lives of discipleship – the kind of lives for which Christ prayed and died. Protect us from the temptation of insincere faith and uncommitted living. Take hold of us and make us wholly yours, that we may be dedicated living witnesses to the faith to which you call us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.***

**Assurance of Pardon**

**L:** Hear the Good News: God loved us enough to send his only Son as the remedy for our sins.

**P:** ***We gratefully receive this precious gift, and dedicate ourselves to honoring God with our lives.***

**L:** Friends, believe the live the Good News of the Gospel -

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



**Meeting God in the Word**

**Children's Message**

**First Lesson**

*1 John 5: 9-13 The Gift of Eternal Life*

*Lay Leader*



*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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**      *John 17: 6-19*      *Jesus Prayer for Our Sanctification*      *Carol*



*I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*  
*John 17:9*

*'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.*

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*Holiness – What's It All About?*

## Responding to the Word

**Hymn # 391**

*Take My Life*

*1-Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*3-Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee,  
Filled with messages from thee.*

*2-Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee,  
Swift and beautiful for thee.*

*4-Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose,  
Every power as thou shalt choose.*



## **Affirmation of Faith**

A Portion of *The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)*  
6.043 Of Christ the Mediator

*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 heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.*

*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 fullness 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.*

## **The Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Celebration of Our Gifts**

*Eternal God, you sent your Son into the world to show us how to love. Send us from this place as expressions of your love, that we might witness to the truth of the Gospel, and use this offering to accomplish your purposes. Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

# Going Out to Serve

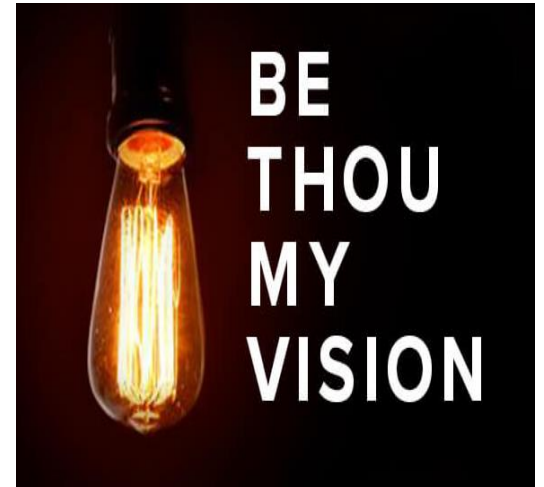
Hymn # 339

*Be Thou My Vision*

*1-Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art –  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*2-Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*3-Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*



## Blessing

- L: Our Lord has ascended to heaven, but we remain to continue his mission.
- P: *Jesus prayed that we should not be taken out of the world, for there is much work still to be done.***
- L: He also prayed that we would be one, as he is one with his Father.
- A: *May God keep us united as we depart, and faithful to the work to which we are called.***
- L: And may the blessings...

## Response

*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.*