



New Covenant Presbyterian Church

May 8, 2022

10:00am Service



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

The Worship of God

May 8, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Donna Casey

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



It may just be a matter of growing older, but I think more often these days about “what comes next.” You see, I’ve reached that age at which my pet cat is likely to outlive me. I wonder about Jesus’ promise of eternal life to his followers. The word “eternal” is often used to speak of things that are long lasting. We also use the word to describe slow moving experiences. “It seemed like an eternity,” we say. Yet, taken in the context of what scripture says about “eternal” things, there surely is more to it than just an unending quality.

Jesus’ words give us one hint. After saying, “I give them eternal life,” he went on to say “they will never perish.” Being imperishable is different from just lasting a long time. To be imperishable is to be free from decay and corruption. Eternal life must be life in which the presence of God’s Spirit is our safeguard against such things. Scripture also speaks of God’s love, justice, and mercy as eternal. Eternal life must also be life in which love overflows, and justice and mercy go hand-in-hand. Those things may not be the whole picture, but for me, they are enough.

- Galen T. Newburn

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: O come, let us worship the Good Shepherd, for we are the sheep of his fold.

P: *He gives us food from green pastures, and water from pure fountains.*

L: He plants our feet on safe paths, and leads us through dark valleys.

P: *He protects us with his rod, and supports us with his staff.*

A: *O come, let us worship the Good Shepherd, for we are the sheep of his fold.*

Hymn # 262

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*1-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.*

*2-Unresting, unhasting, 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 good ness and love.*

*3-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.*

*4-Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest 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!*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we go about too many days failing to proclaim your saving power with our voices and actions. We live with fear, anxiety and doubt, rather than with certainty. We often choose what is expedient or comfort-able, rather than what is right. We close our eyes and ears to those who are in need, and close our hearts to those we claim to love. We are quick to hurt others, and slow to right our wrongs. Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we have not lived faithfully in our relationship with you. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Lay Leader

**Assurance of Pardon:**

L: Hear the Good News: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

P: ***For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear him.***

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 170

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

1-*The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie in pastures
green;
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.*

3-*Yea, though I walk in death's dark
vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For thou art with me;*

2-*My soul he doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make within the
paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.*

4-*My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.*

5-*Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.*

Litany of Faith

- L: The Lord is my shepherd, but not mine alone, for the Lord has other sheep, not not of this fold.
- P: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.***
- L: The other folds include Baptists, Catholics, Mennonites, and non-denominational believers, and the Lord is their Shepherd too.
- P: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.***
- L: The other folds include people raised in diverse cultures, who have learned to worship differently than us, and the Lord is their Shepherd too.
- P: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.***
- L: The other folds include people on the right, on the left, and everything in between, and the Lord is their Shepherd too.
- P: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.***
- L: The other folds include the learned, the ignorant, the innocent, and the guilty, and the Lord is their Shepherd too.
- P: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.***
- L: The other folds include people of every race under the sun, for God created us all, and the Lord is the Shepherd of us all.
- P: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.***
- L: The other folds include people from every nation on earth, for the Lord loves us all, and is the Shepherd of all.
- A: *So there shall be one flock and one Shepherd. Help us, O Lord, to put your commands, as our Shepherd, before the claims of our particular fold.***

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 case all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication: God of love and mercy, we give you thanks for all of our blessings. Guide and direct us in the best use of time, talents, and resources that we might be your faithful servants.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*1-Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Fee me till I want no more.*

*2-Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still mv strenath and shield.*

*3-When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.*



Blessing

- L: Remember that Jesus knows our needs, and he gives us the gift of eternal life.
- P: *As his sheep, we hear his loving voice, and we follow where he leads.***
- L: May we follow our Leader and Shepherd, who continually beckons us to come to him – to move and grow – to learn and stretch – to risk and give of ourselves, that our lives might be full and vital. And now, may the blessings of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

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.*