



— JOHN 15:9 —  
"Just as the Father  
has loved Me,  
*I have also loved you;*  
abide in My love."

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**May 9, 2021 10:00am Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE**  
**(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)**

# The Worship of God

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader:

### Preparing to Meet God

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



*The science lesson in the elementary school classroom that day was about magnets. Beginning with what she thought was a very simple question, the teacher asked: "My name starts with an 'M,' it has six letters, and I am always picking something up. What am I?" A hand started waving madly in the front row. The teacher gave a nod, and the answer came bursting out: "I know – you're a MOTHER!"*

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*A mother whose only son was preparing for college wrote the following note to the college president: "Dear Sir – My son has been accepted for admission to your college and soon he will be leaving me. I am writing to ask that you give your personal attention to the selection of his roommate. I want to be sure that the person he will spend the next few years with is NOT the kind of person who smokes, drinks, uses foul language or is a troublemaker or rabble-rouser. I hope you will understand why I am appealing to you directly. You see, this is the first time my son will be away from home, except for his three years in the Marines..."*

- Leonard Sweet, posted on Facebook, July 9, 2013

#### Call to Worship

- L: We gather to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, who loves us even as God loved him.
- P: *Jesus was obedient to his Father, and he remained in God's love.***
- L: Looking to Jesus, we are challenged to remain in God's love by obeying the commandments we have been given.
- P: *Jesus taught us to love and forgive one another as he loved us. May God help us bear that kind of fruit in our lives.***

\*Hymn of Praise # 629, red book *Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee*

*Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.  
But sweeter far they face to see, and in thy presence rest.*

*Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mind recall,  
A sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.*

*O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!*

*But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show.  
The love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.*

*Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.  
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.*

### Prayer of Confession

***We come in confession of our disobedience to our Lord's command to love one another, O God. We choose friends with whom we spend time in fellowship, and yet, we rarely love them as you have loved us. Forgive us for hindering the growth of your church and the joy of our friendship, by putting limits on our love. Recreate us to be self-giving persons who are able to truly love, that we may develop deep and lasting friendships with Christ and all your children. 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: Each of you is a treasured member of God's family!

**P:** ***Nothing will ever change that, for God loves us with an unconditional love that looks upon us with 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: 1-6*

*Faith Conquers the World*

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

*This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.*

#### Second Lesson

*John 15: 9-17*

*Following Christ's Model of How to Love*



*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

**Sermon**

LOVE – From God's Perspective

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn** Tune #432 (Song of Hope) God, You Love the World  
Blue hymnal

*God, you love the world! You sent your only Son,  
And you said, "Go share my love with everyone."  
So we seek to serve you in our homes and towns,  
And we work to show the world: Your love abounds! **Refrain***

**Refrain: Lead us, as we go this day;  
Guide us as we work and pray.  
Give us, when each day is through,  
True joy, found in serving you.**

*By your Spirit, some build houses, safe and strong,  
Some are called to share your Word in prayer and song.  
Some are called to heal the sick and fight disease,  
Some are called to save the land by planting trees. **Refrain***

*Teach us that in loving, we must listen well.  
Help us hear the stories others have to tell.  
Help us learn from other people and their ways.  
May we be united as we offer praise. **Refrain***

### **Affirmation of Faith**

- L: God is love. We are created in God's image to reflect and share that love.  
**P: We celebrate human love as a gift. We are given families, friends and communities in which to receive and nurture love for one another.**
- L: On this Mother's Day, we give thanks for our mothers who gave us the gift of life.  
**P: We also give thanks for all those who nurtured us through our lives – all those who, no matter their role, loved and shaped us, comforted and encouraged us, taught us and believed in us.**



L: We ask your blessing upon these people, O Lord. May your love strengthen and support them each and every day.

**P: *Grant them your grace and wisdom, anointing them with your presence and peace.***

L: And bless all others who currently give of themselves to nurture your children, guiding them in the way they should go, that the world will be better because of the love they share.

**P: *Thank you for your love, and for family and friends with whom we share love. May we never take it for granted.***

### 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**      *You are invited to place your offering in the basket in the back of the sanctuary.*

**Prayer of Dedication**    *In response to your great love for us, gracious God, we joyfully and gratefully offer the fruits of our labor and our lives with these gifts. Bless and multiply them, we pray, that the transformative power of your love will be a reality in our community and the world. Amen.*

## Going Out to Serve God

\* Hymn # Tune – 649, red book      *Where Charity and Love Prevail*  
*Amazing Grace*

*Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.*

*Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.  
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.*

*Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.*

*Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,  
That we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.*

*Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;  
Our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.*



**\* Blessing**

L: Jesus chose us that we might go where he sends us, doing whatever he calls us to do.

**P: *Send us out, O God, with humility, courage, and, most of all, LOVE>***

L: The world has much to learn about miracles wrought by humility, and wonders worked by courage.

**P: *But it has the most to learn about the mysteries revealed by the gentle touch of love. This is what we are called to share with a world so desperately in need of this rare gift.***

**A: *May God give us the wisdom, strength and courage to love as we have been loved, holding nothing back.***

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.*