

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
November 15, 2020 10:00am Service**



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

The Worship of God

Stewardship: Live Simply – Act Together

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



Words are woefully inadequate to express some very important things. When it comes to our understanding of things to come, we have to resort to “picture language.” The vision in the Book of Revelation, of the passing away of the heavens and the earth, and the appearance of a “a new heaven and a new earth,” clearly expressed our expectation in Christ – that God will “recreate life to be as it was intended to be in the beginning.”

The image of Jerusalem as a “bride adorned for her husband” makes it equally clear that this re-creation will be a time of rejoicing and wonderful new beginnings. The most powerful part of the vision though, is the voice announcing that God’s home will be in the new creation – that God will live among the people. One impact of God’s presence is that a clear line will be drawn – the good God intends will survive and be blessed. And evil will be gone.

The images of that blessedness are personal. God will wipe away “every tear from our eyes” and the causes of sorrow as well. What causes you to weep – hunger, poverty, disease, greed, anger, anxiety, or hopelessness? They will all be gone. Every cause of suffering will be gone, even death! Rejoice, my friends, for this message is for YOU. All things will be new and LOVE will reign!

Call to Worship

L: Come, O people, and join with all of creation in praising God.

P: ***With the stars and the planets, with the mountains and the waters, we praise God!***

L: Come and join all people who sing to God’s glory.

P: ***With the powerful and the meek, with men and women, with old and young together, we praise the Lord!***

L: Come and praise and speak the most basic language of faith.

P: ***For when we truly praise the Lord, we learn to love one another, as God loved us.***

L: Come together, O Church – come together into one great company of disciples so that we might follow our teacher, Jesus Christ, into every walk of life.

P: ***We will join together that we might serve Christ’s mission in the world, together witnessing to his love and mercy. We come for the sake of our call to serve.***

Hymn of PraisePraise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth!*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.*

Prayer of Confession

God of hope, you promise to make all things new, and you have been patient in your desire to restore your world to its original perfection. We have been stubborn and belligerent in not being who you created us to be. Forgive our unwillingness to be changed – to be open to others – to open the doors of the church to those different from ourselves. Continue your patience with us until we become your new creations, living in love and peace with one another. And now we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the Good News: We are not only baptized with water, but with the Holy Spirit.

P: ***God has given us the same gift that was given to the apostles, because we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.***

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***Acts 11: 1-18**Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem*

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing

profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

Special Music

Days of Elijah

Robin Mark

*These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord.
And these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these are the days of great trials – of famine, and darkness and sword.
Still, we are the voice in the desert, crying, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”*

**Chorus: Behold he comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call.
So lift your voice, it’s the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion’s hill, salvation comes.**

*And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding the temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers, in your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord.*

Chorus

*There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah, there’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah*

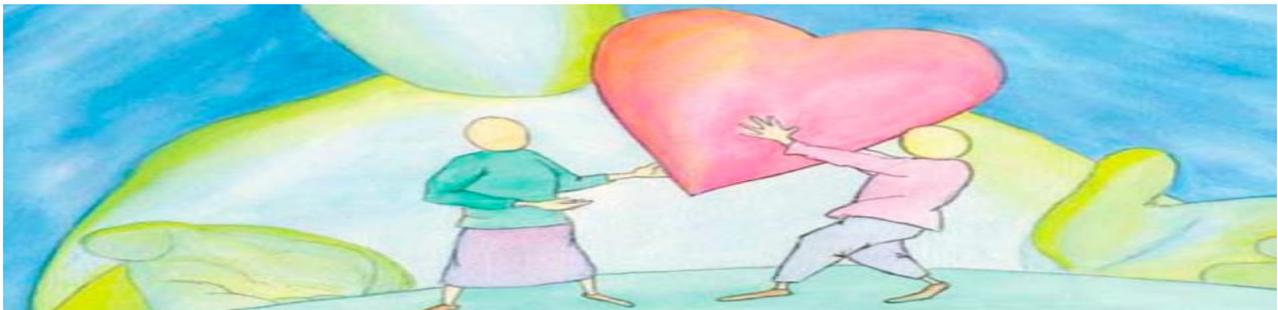
Chorus

And out of Zion’s hill, salvation comes.

Second Lesson

John 13: 31-35

The New Commandment



When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Sermon

On the Road of Christian Discipleship

Responding to the Word

***Hymn**

God, You Love the World
(Sung to Song of Hope, #765, Glory to God)



*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: 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 health 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***

When

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that God never gives up on us.

We believe that Jesus was God in human form, who showed us the astounding steadfastness of God's love for us.

We believe God's Holy Spirit is always with us, even in times of deep suffering and sorrow.

We know that God's love for us continues, and continues, and continues for eternity.

And NOTHING – not even death – can separate us from this love.

And we are called to LOVE AS JESUS LOVED, and SHARE IT with the world, that the world might come to know God through us.

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 God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings on us. Our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us the wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and in the service of humankind. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn

Though I May Speak

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire.
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess;
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*



* Blessing

L: We go out as disciples of Jesus Christ, marked by his love.

P: *When we share this love, we reveal God to the world.*

L: May the Spirit continue to stir your hearts, moving you to new acts of love every day,

P: *That all may know the Good News of God's love through us!*

L: And now, may the blessings of God Almighty...

*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.