

O Lord

O LORD, how manifold are thy works!
in wisdom hast thou made them all; the
earth is full of thy riches.

Psalms 104:24

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

November 28, 2021

Worship Service



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

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The Worship of God

1st Sunday of Advent

Part 9 of Sailboat Church Series

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Our Vision

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



How much is enough for you? How strong do you have to be NOT to feel weak? Today is a day when we focus on God's message being counter-cultural, or opposite from the way the world sees things. We hear the message of God's grace being sufficient for us – of God's power making us strong, even in our weakness – that the extraordinary treasure we have in the clay jars of our lives truly belongs to God, and so it is God who deserves the glory. And finally, we hear the glory of creation – how God provides for every living thing in all the ways that are needed. Praise God for being our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Wreath Lighters:



L: We are a people of hope.

P: *Our hearts are full of anticipation for the coming of our beloved Christ Child.*

L: For God is to be among us, and we will see a great light in the midst of our night.

P: *Let us light the Candle of Hope.* (light front blue candle)

L: Let us pray: Holy God, descend upon us this day as we begin a season of preparing for your arrival. Keep us close to you and one another that we might be a faithful witness to your great love. Amen.

Response

He Came Down

*He came down that we may have hope. He came down that we may have hope.
He came down that we may have hope. Hallelujah forevermore.*

*Hymn of Praise

People, Look East

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*1-People, look east, the time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east:
Love the guest is on the way.*

*2-Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east:
Love the rose is on the way.*

3-Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
 Guard the nest that must be filled.
 Even the hour when wings are frozen
 God for fledging time has chosen.
 People, look east:
 Love the bird is on the way.

4-Stars, keep the watch. When night dim
 One more light the bowl shall brim,
 Shining beyond the frosty weather,
 Bright as sun and moon together.
 People, look east:
 Love the star is on the way.

Prayer of Confession

We aren't ready, Lord. Somehow, it seems easier for us to hide in the upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us to come alive again with your love and words of healing mercy. Forgive our hesitant witness and our complacent spirits. Heal our fears and our wounds. Help us to be agents of healing and hope for others. Challenge and inspire us to overcome our feelings of inadequacy and remind us that you have called us beloved and have given us what we need to proclaim your Good News. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

- L: Friends, hear the Good News: Do not be afraid! God's Holy Spirit brings you healing comfort and hope.
- P: ***We are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways. Let us rejoice for God's Spirit is always with us!***
- L: Believe the Good News of the Gospel -
- P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lessons 2 Cor. 12: 8-9 *Paul's Prayer About the Thorn in His Flesh* Lay Leader

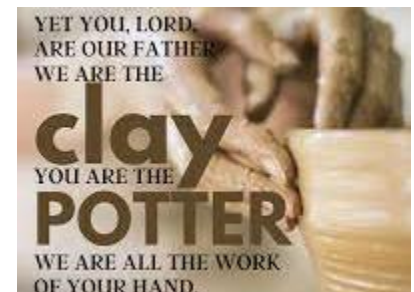
Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

**we have this
 TREASURE
 in earthen vessels**



2 Cor. 4: 5-7 *The Treasure We Have to Share*

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.



Isaiah 64: 8 *The Relationship Between the Potter and the Clay*

O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

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

Special Music**Second Lesson***Psalm 104: 24-34; 35b The Glory of Creation**Carol*

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works - who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Designed by God for Holy Purposes

Responding to the Word***Hymn**

This is My Father's World

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*1-This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*2-This is my Father's world.
O, let me ne'er forget,
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world.
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.*

***Litany of Faith**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord, my God, you are great. You are clothed with honor and majesty. *You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind.*

P: ***O Lord, how manifold are your works!***

L: You set the earth on its foundations; you make springs gush forth in the valleys. You make grass to grow and plants to bring forth food from the earth.

P: ***O Lord, how manifold are your works!***

L: You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. The earth is full of your creatures; in wisdom you have made them all.

P: ***O Lord, how manifold are your works!***

L: All look to you, O Lord, to give them their food in due season; when you give it to them, they gather it up. When you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

P: ***I will sing praise to the Lord as long as I live! May the glory of the Lord endure forever. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!***

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

God 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.

Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

263, vs. 1, 2, 4

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.

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 dwellest 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!

Blessing

L: God, out of God's great love, has created each of you.

P: Jesus Christ, out of his great love, has redeemed us.

L: The Holy Spirit, out of great love, has lifted and inspired you to go in peace, hopeful for the future that awaits you.

May the blessings...

Response

*He Is Lord - 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.*