

Many are called but few are chosen.



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
October 11, 2020 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Donna Casey

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



Scripture calls us to stand firm in the Lord. Just how are we to do that? I don't think it is a call to stand firm in claims about birth or family, self-righteousness or personal accomplishment. These are temptations to false pride, and they can support us only so far against doubts, and the challenges our faith itself invites.

So, how shall we "stand firm" in the face of peer pressure or the challenge of popularity? We all are naturally hungry to be accepted, although it is especially important to young people to be one of the gang, or to fit in. Some will go so far as to go down pathways of self-destructive practices. How hard it is at age 16 to conceive of the need for basic good health at age 47, or at age 47 to imagine the challenges of being 87.

By standing firm in our commitment to the Lord, each of us can be sure of being the best possible person later in life. Here, though, Paul is exhorting fellow believers to hold fast to their faith, to persevere in it, even in the face of social pressure, business demands, marital difficulties, health challenges, and family emergencies. Standing firm in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ offers victory in body, mind and spirit – which is the strength to cope with all that confronts us.

Call to Worship

- L:** Jesus speaks to us through his church, inviting us to be part of God's kingdom.
- P:** **We may be IN the church, yet fail to accept Christ's invitation into God's kingdom, IF our faith DOES NOT LEAD TO ACTION.**
- A:** **May our response to Christ be a personal commitment in which our faith and life enable God's kingdom to be our home.**

*Hymn of Praise #145

The Church's One Foundation

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.*

Prayer of Confession

Welcoming God, you invite all people to your feast, but sometimes we decline to come. You invite all people into your kingdom, but sometimes we try to pick and choose who should be there. You forgive us all through your Son, but we condemn those who are not like us. Have mercy on us, Lord, when we seek to be holier than you. Help us to hear your invitation, and to know that ALL are welcomed, just as you welcomed us. Holy 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: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
- P: Praise God that there is no sin so terrible that God’s love cannot forgive it.**
- 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

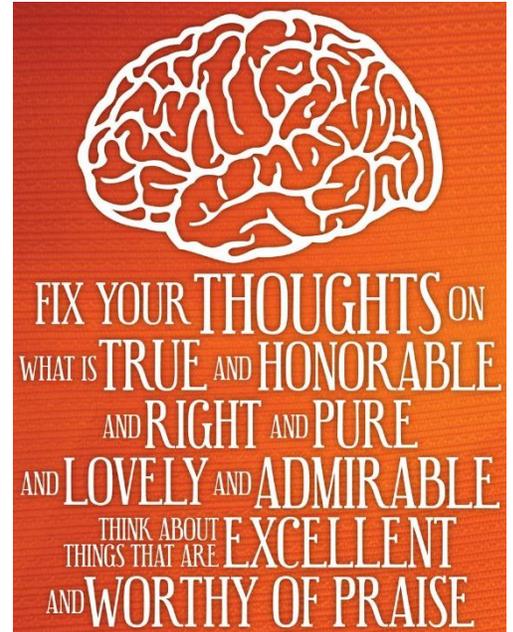
Philippians 4: 1-9

Rejoicing in Honor

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.



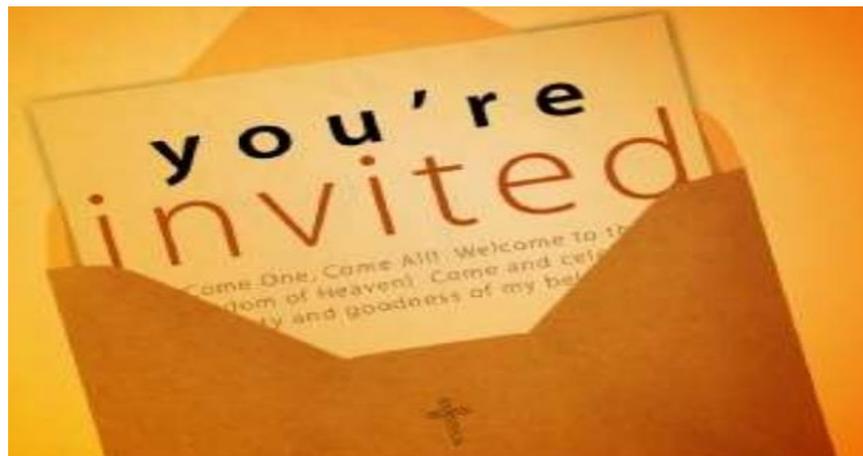
Second Lesson

Matthew 22: 1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'



Sermon How Does Jesus' Invitation to Us Read? Come as You Are? Not Quite

Responding to the Word

Hymn # *Welcoming God* (Sung to the tune of *Blessed Assurance*)

*Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
When the disciples just urged them away.*

Children are welcome at Jesus knee:

God's own examples for ministry.

Welcoming God, you open the Way;

Even the smallest worship and pray,

Singing with faith and serving you well,

Your life to know and good news to tell.

Women are welcome, as are the men;

Through God's own Spirit, we're partner again.

Partners as prophets, ministers, too:

No more divided – made one in you.

Welcoming God, you open the way;

Those once divided join now to pray,

Serving at Table, preaching your Word,

So that your love for all will be heard.

Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,

Eating with Jesus and being made new:

Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;

Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.

God of great love, you stand at the door,

Welcoming people outcast and poor.

So you forgive and call us to be

Filled with the joy of your jubilee.

So may we welcome into our pew

All who in Jesus are being made new-

All those who seek him, wanting to know,

Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.

Welcoming God, you stand at our door,

As someone different, outcast or poor.

With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.

May we all welcome you in your church.

*Litany of Faith

L: Whatever is true, keep your minds there.

P: *We will shield the truth with our lives, even if we are accused of being false.*

L: Whatever is honorable, keep your minds there.

P: *We will wear honor as a cloak, even if we are put to shame.*

L: Whatever is just, keep your minds there.

P: *We will stand up for justice, even if we are charged with rocking the boat.*

L: Whatever is gracious, keep your minds there.

P: *We will open our hearts to grace, even if we are reproached for having compassionate ways.*

A: *What we LEARN and RECEIVE and HEAR and SEE in Christ, our brother, the people of God shall DO.*

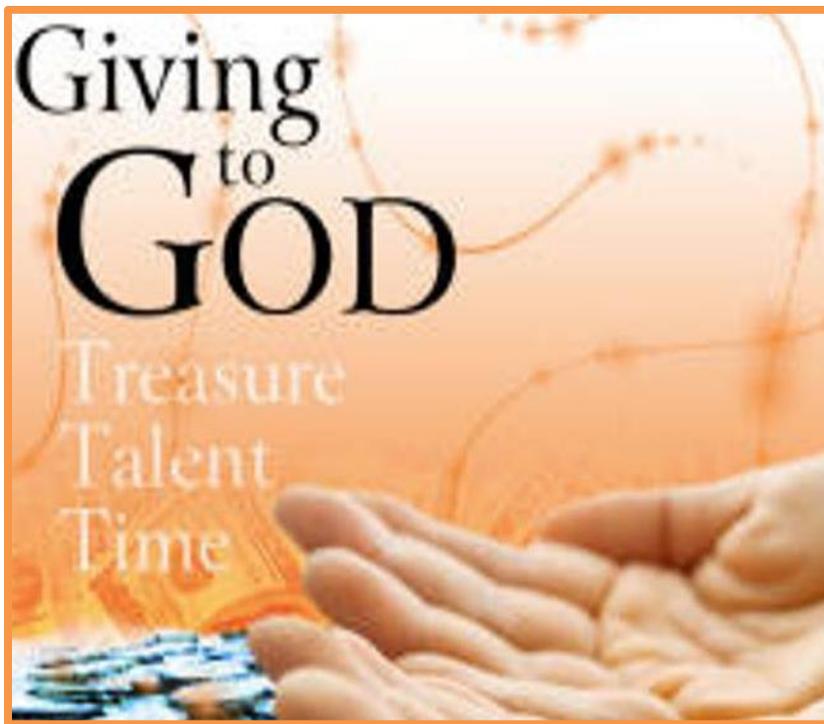
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 at the back of the sanctuary or send it in to the church. Thank you!*



Prayer of Dedication: God of mercy, your Spirit is upon us to bring good tidings to the poor, to comfort those who mourn, to bind up hearts that are broken, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed. Help us to fulfill this ministry in Christ as we offer up our gifts and service in his name. Amen.

Going Out to Serve God

*** Hymn**

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

*Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.*

*Take thou our hearts, O Christ, they are thine own;
Come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
Help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
Use us to make the earth like heaven above.*

*Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway,
Have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
Guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
Guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.*

*Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind and will,
Through our surrendered souls Thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee – time, talents, all;
We hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.*

*** Blessing**

L: Go now into your thoroughfares and markets,

P: *Down our highways and byways and into our homes.*

L: Take God's feast with you to as many as you find,

P: *And there shall be food for all.*

L: And may the blessings of God ...

***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.*