



New Covenant Presbyterian Church

October 31, 2021

Worship Service



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

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The Worship of God

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Part 6 of Sailboat Church Series

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Our Vision



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

Have you ever had a time when you felt lost and far from home? What was that like and how did things get resolved? Sometimes we find ourselves in situations that overwhelm and disorientate us. It can feel like we are strangers in a strange land. But God's people have been in situations like this before. God encourages us to keep listening because God has a good plan for our lives with a hope-filled future.

Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah during very turbulent times. He is sometimes referred to as the "weeping prophet" because of the opposition he faced and his harsh message to God's people that the Exile was the result of their disobedience toward God. But Jeremiah was a prophet of hope who promised that God would make a new covenant with his people, a promise that was fulfilled with the coming of Jesus.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: God is always near even when we can't feel God's presence.

P: *God has promised to be our God and because we trust God, we can trust God's promises.*

L: Having faith and trust in God is essential to the Christian life.

P: *We are confident that God will not forsake us and will bless us in our faithfulness.*

*Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Almighty King

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*1-Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.*

*2-Come, Thou Incarnate Word, Gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come, and thy people bless,
And give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.*

4-To thee, great One in Three, The highest praises be,
Hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty,
May we in glory see,
And to eternity, love and adore.

3-Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

Prayer of Confession

We panic so easily, O God, when we are not sure what the future holds. Forgive us for our lack of trust that gives fear control of our faith. Speak to us your word of hope, healing, and happiness that we may face life with confidence, assured of your support and presence. 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: We have been justified through faith in Jesus Christ.

P: ***We have been received into the sphere of God's grace.***

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 Lesson *Acts 2: 36-47* *The First Converts and Life Among Believers* *Lay Leader*

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: ***Thanks be to God.***

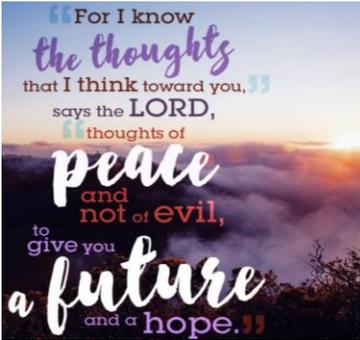
Special Music

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 29: 10-14

God's Plan for Us

Carol



For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

If Only We Knew

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

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1-God, you spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in your image,
Would a true reflection be
Of your justice, grace, and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.

2-You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people,
We move onward toward your goal.

3-God, your Word is still creating.
Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas,
Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion,
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical Version)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

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*1-Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

*3-Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*2-Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*4-Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, and holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

Blessing

L: If only we knew the God who desires to bless us abundantly, we would follow and not question.

P: *May we come to know this God more intimately each day and willingly and gladly follow where God leads us.*

L: Friends, 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.*