

EVERYONE

is

SERVE
Called to

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

September 11, 2022

10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE

(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

September 11, 2022 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Donna Casey

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



The ultimate factor in the rise of Christianity? Its ideas: "The simple phrase, 'For God so loved the world,' would have puzzled an educated pagan," sociologist Rodney Stark says. "The notion that the gods care how we treat one another would have been dismissed as patently absurd."

To the Greco-Roman world, mercy was a character flaw; the ideal was justice. "Since mercy involves providing unearned help or relief, it was contrary to justice," Stark adds. "This was the moral climate in which Christianity taught that mercy is one of the primary virtues – that a merciful God requires humans to be merciful. Moreover, the corollary that because God loves humanity, Christians may not please God unless they love one another was something entirely new.

"Perhaps even more revolutionary was the principle that Christian love and charity must extend beyond the boundaries of family and tribe, indeed, that it must even extend beyond the Christian community." - Paul Galloway, How Jesus Won the West: Christianity Became Dominant Because It Offered Better Ideas and Unexpected Mercy

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Praise the Lord from the heavens.

P: Praise him, all his angels. Praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

L: Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all you shining stars.

P: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

A: Let all of God's creation praise the name of the Lord.

Hymn # 491Stand Up and Bless the Lord*Sung to the tune of *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

1-Stand up and bless the Lord,
Ye people of God's choice;
Stand up and bless the Lord your God
With heart and soul and voice.

3-O for the living flame
From God's own altar brought,
To touch our lips, our minds inspire,
And wing to heaven our thought!

2-Though high above all praise,
Above all blessing high,
Who would not fear God's holy name,
And laud and magnify?

4-God is our strength and song,
Now is salvation ours;
Then be God's love in Christ proclaimed
With all our ransomed powers.

5-Stand up and bless the Lord;
The Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless God's glorious name,
Henceforth forevermore.

**Litany of Confession***Lay Leader*

- L: The Lord looks down from on high, seeking one person who truly desires to love and serve God – just ONE – who longs for understanding of God's ways.
- P: *Alas, all have turned away! There is no one who does good – not a single one.***
- L: In their hearts the fools say, "There is no God," but the fools and their friends are corrupt, practicing evil deeds. Will they never learn?
- P: *Those who do not call on the Lord are filled with dread. They prey on the poor and devour the righteous.***
- L: But God keeps company with the saints. God gives refuge to the poor. Salvation will come and the Lord will restore the covenant people.
- P: *Let us sing for joy and shout praises to God's name!***
- A: *May the Spirit of God descend upon us that we might hunger and thirst for righteousness, thus pleasing the Lord our God. And now, O God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgivenessAmen.***

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Our God is patient and kind, forgiving us of all our unrighteousness.

P: We give thanks for God's mercy and loving-kindness.

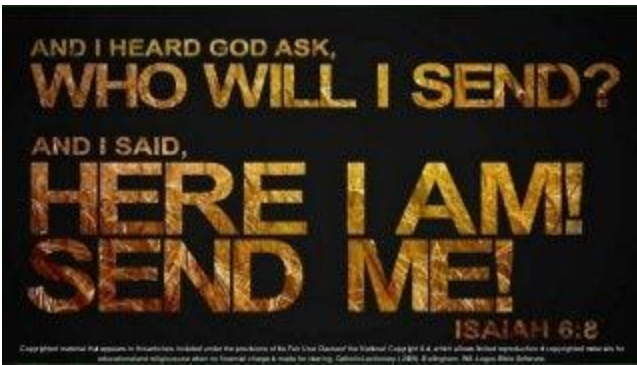
L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel -

A: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *Is. 6: 1-8* *A Vision of God in the Temple* *Lay Leader: Donna Casey*



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

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

Second Lesson *1 Timothy 1: 12-17* *Gratitude for Mercy* *Carol*

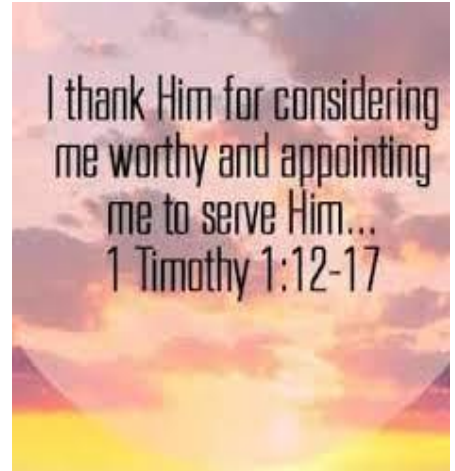
I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received merc because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the foremost.

But for that reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Sermon

Called to Serve



Responding to the Word

***Hymn 343**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*1-Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend.
Equal partners in our caring,
To fulfill God's chosen end.*

*3-Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*2-Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together,
Gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*4-So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase.
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.*

***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 case all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication: Everlasting God, we bring before you our tithes and offerings with grateful hearts for all that you have given us. We pray that these gifts will be used for the glory of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

***Hymn 263** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*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.*



*2-Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*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 rulest 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: To the King of the ages who calls each one of us to service.

P: *Immortal, invisible, God only wise.*

L: Be all honor and glory forever.

P: *With thanksgiving for creating us in God's own image and appointing us as partners in fulfilling God's purposes.*

L: And may the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forevermore

Response

*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.*

