

For if we live,
we live
to the Lord;
and if we die,
we die
to the Lord.

*Therefore, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8*

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
September 13, 2020 10:00am Service



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The Worship of God

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

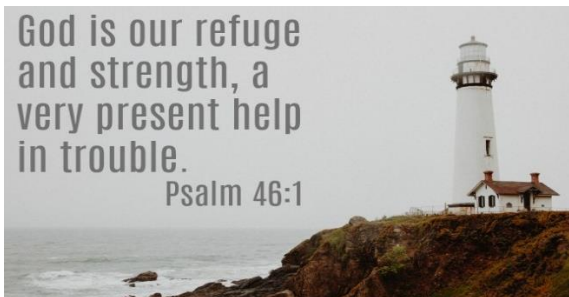


We must try to learn something from what happened on 9/11, “rather than let it sit like a black hole on our social landscape. The attack that drew the United States into World War II might provide some parallels here. Although that attack and the war that followed brought untold suffering for millions of people, by 1945, we had learned something. We learned that we needed to take steps to make sure no war ever happened again on that scale. Rather than punishing the vanquished (as we did after WW I), we helped Germany and Japan rebuild. One of the consequences of that decision has been that there has not been another war of that size and scale in the year since.” - Robert Schreier, “Can we forgive 9/11?” St. Anthony Messenger, September 2006, American catholic.org.

Call to Worship

- L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
P: Therefore we will not fear,
 L: Though the earth should change, and the mountains shake.
P: God is our refuge and strength,
 L: Though the waters roar and our security seems to be threatened.
P: God is our refuge and strength.
A: The Lord is our strength and our might and our salvation. For this, we come to give thanks and to praise our God!

God is our refuge
and strength,
a very present help
in trouble.
Psalm 46:1



Hymn of Praise # 466O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing, my dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace.*

*Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'this life, and health, and peace.*

*Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy name.*

Prayer of Confession

L: Creator God, with the breath of your Word, you formed this world and called it good, but we perverted your providence. So, we are born into a twisted world bent by its ways.

P: *Lord, in your mercy, make us new.*

L: O God, you made us to hunger after you, but we have become captive to selfish desires. We turn our eyes away from those who don't have the basic necessities so that we can enjoy our luxuries.

P: *Lord, in your mercy, make us new.*

L: God of love, you made us to be in communion with one another, yet we're so afraid of other's expectations that we shut them out before they can get too near. We see them as a threat, label them bad, refuse their voices and presence as your children.

P: *Lord, in your mercy, make us new.*

L: You alone are ruler of the universe, but we keep trying to take your job. We grab for power and seek control, doing violence to all who get in our way or challenge our truth.

P: *Lord in your mercy, make us new.*

L: Basically, Lord, we want to be in charge, and we want it ALL, the WAY we want it, WHEN we want it. In our dominance, we break communion with you as Lord and also with our neighbors.

P: *Lord, in your mercy, make us new.*



L: We stand exposed in the light of your eternal love, filled with all that speaks of death, yet longing for life. And you alone have the power to break our bondage to sin.

P: *Forgive us, O Lord.*

A: *And cover us with your compassion, refashioning us in your image. And now we turn to you in silent prayer to share our personal concerns and seek your forgiveness.....Amen.*

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ was born for us, he lived for us, and died for us. Christ rose for us and reigns in power for us, praying for each of us.

P: *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

L: The old is finished and gone. Behold, new life had begun. 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

Exodus 14: 19-31

The Angel of God and the Pillar of Cloud

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so, the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'



Second Lesson

Romans 14: 1-12

Do Not Judge One Another

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Sermon

The Pillar of Fire and Cloud

Responding to the Word

***Hymn**

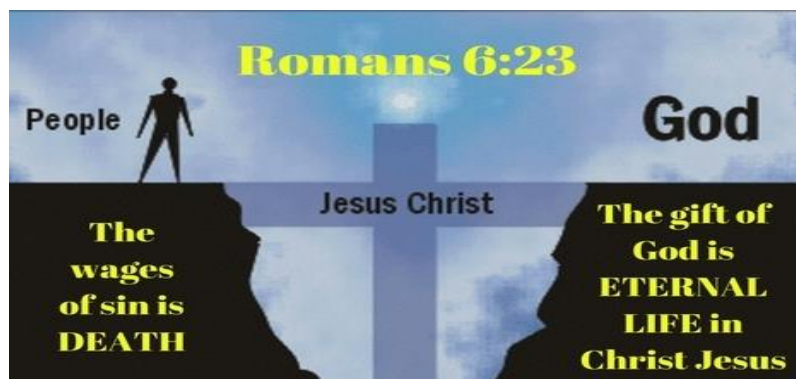
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (Sung to tune of *Amazing Grace*, #280)

*"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace, to live the words we say.*

*How can your pardon reach and bless, the unforgiving heart,
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.*



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.*

Prayer of Dedication: *As we offer our gifts, gracious God, we confess that we sometimes
hesitate to give because of the magnitude of the need. Turn us around, Lord, and let us give of
ourselves and our bounty because you have provided for us and you call us to be concerned for and
care for others. Amen.*

Going Out to Serve God

*Hymn # 293

This Is My Father's World

*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.*

*This is my Father's world. Oh, 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.*

* Blessing

L: Go forth from this place renewed in your faith and filled with hope.

**P: *We will go out to share God's gift of love and forgiveness as it has been so generously
shared with us.***

L: And may God's blessings be with you ...

*Response

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, we are family.
Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment, and live each moment, with peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

