

**NEVER DOUBT
THAT
GOD'S GRACE
IS GREATER
THAN
YOUR SINS!**

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church
September 20, 2020 10:00am Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org**

The Worship of God

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Alice Megonigal

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



We come again to this familiar time of worship. May we set aside this time to rest deeply in the comfort and blessing of God's presence. Steeped in the certainty of God's love and care for us, we ask for the ability to hear and understand God's message for us this day. Will God call us to take better care of our time and talents? Are we to be nudged toward a new job or a new way to serve? Will God speak to us of tidying up a messy relationship? Will God ask us to follow where we would really rather not go? Whatever form God's message and call to us takes, let us come to worship during this hour with courage, so that we might respond by saying "Yes!" Let us worship together in praise and thanksgiving on this Sabbath day.

Call to Worship

- L: We come to worship longing to hear the Good News of the heavenly reward God promises to us as God's children.
- P: *Eternal life is not a reward we earn by good works. We could never become righteous enough to make up for past sin, or worthy enough through our own actions, to win God's favor.***
- L: God's love and favor is given NOT in proportion to our righteousness, but according to God's grace, which is beyond our comprehension.
- P: *We praise you, O God, for loving us. May we never become jealous over your love and grace shown to others, whom we feel may seem less deserving than us.***

*Hymn of Praise # 441

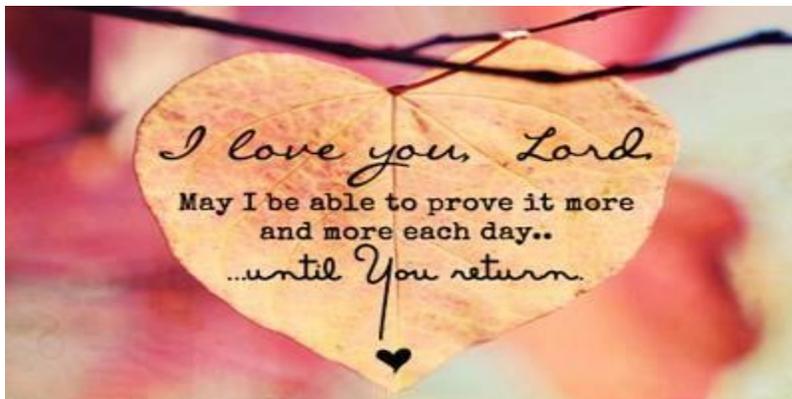
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

*I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved, with his own precious blood.*

*I love thy church, O God; her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.*

*.For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.*

*Beyond my highest joy, I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.*



Prayer of Confession

Loving God, faith convinces us of the truth of your kingdom, and our desire to be with you for eternity. We have tried to live in such a way as to please you, even though we know that we do not earn our salvation. And yet, we confess that we do not understand why you allow others, who repent so late in life, to enjoy the same privileges you have in store for us. We wonder why they should be included in your family – those who reap the benefits of your blessings. Forgive us for questioning your reasoning, and fill our hearts with thanksgiving, for a redemption which is not based on good works or merit. Help us to be accepting of all your ways, simply receiving your blessings with thanks, and being receptive to your amazing grace. 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 One who started the good work in you,

P: ***Will bring it to completion to the glory of God.***

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 1: 21-30

Living for Christ

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

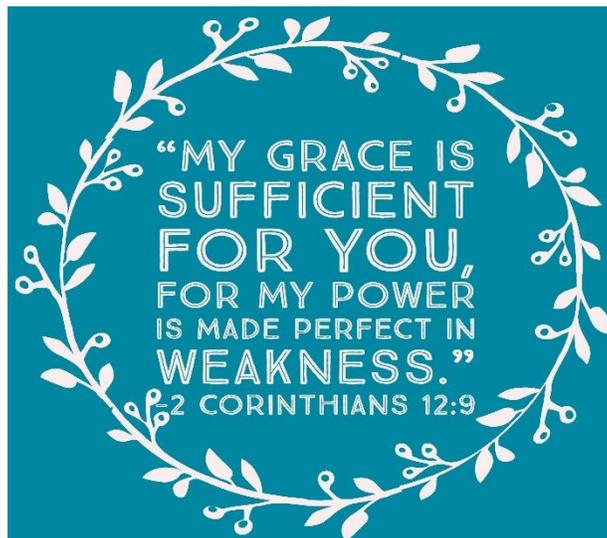
Second Lesson

Matthew 20: 1-16 The Laborers in the Vineyard

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Sermon

God's Grace – Nothing Less is Sufficient, Nothing More is Possible



Responding to the Word

Hymn #280

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we'd first begun.*



*Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image – male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. For this we give thanks!

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

Prayer of Dedication
for the Gifts We've
Been Given

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

* Blessing

L: Carry with you from this place a joyful remembrance **OF** one another and a deep commitment **TO** one another.

P: We are partners in the living out of the gospel. Therefore, we will hold one another in our hearts, even as we are held in God's heart.

L: Never forget that the GRACE OF GOD is both sufficient and generous for all of God's children.

P: We will not begrudge anyone the unlimited grace of God. We give thanks that we are counted among the people of God, who do not merit this grace, but receive it anyway.

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.*

