

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
September 25, 2022 10:00am Service



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

The Worship of God

September 25, 2022 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader – Pam Leeson

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*What's on your bucket list?
Popularized by the 2007 film of that name starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson, the phrase "bucket list" refers to a list of things people yearn to do or see or accomplish before they die. Marvel at the Taj Mahal – skydive - hike*

up to Machu Picchu - shake the hand of the president - cook the perfect soufflé - watch a game at every Major League ballpark - the lists are as varied as the people who assemble them. The goal is to accumulate memorable experiences, as one would fill a bucket with strawberries at a pick-your-own berry farm.

What would a Christian bucket list look like? Well, let's start with the bucket. Would it be turned upright, to accumulate the most desirable experiences possible? Or would it be turned upside down, to pour out goodness upon the world? Before it's too late, each of us needs to seriously consider our priorities and choices and the way they not only affect us, but others as well, including God. A deeply Christian bucket list focuses much more on God and others – on meeting their needs and making them happy, leaving our own happiness to be a result of these choices.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: People of God, come this morning to approach the Holy One, and bask in God's love and light.
- P: *Let us love one another, for those who love one another abide in the Light, and do not lose their way.***
- L: People of God, enter into the presence of the Eternal One this day, and stand radiant in God's glory, thus becoming children of the Light.

P: *Let us love the Lord, which entails loving and serving our neighbors, for those who love the Lord dwell in the Light of Day. Their radiance shines forth for all to see, and they will never be ashamed.*

***Hymn**

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Sung to the tune of *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord, #441*

*1-O bless the Lord, my soul!
His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join
To bless his holy name!*

*3-He clothes us with his love;
Upholds us with his truth;
He heals all our infirmities
And ransoms us from death.*

*2-O bless the Lord, my soul!
His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits!
The Lord to thee is kind.*

*4-Then bless his holy name,
Whose grace hath made us whole,
Whose loving kindness crowns our days!
O bless the Lord, my soul!*

***Prayer of Confession**

***Dear God, we call on you expecting you to hear us and come to our aid. That implies that we consider ourselves to be your children – followers of the One called Jesus the Christ. And yet, our lives do not speak well of being your offspring. Forgive us when our independence convinces us that we can live as we please, still claiming all the privileges of being your children. Inspire us to follow the example of Jesus’ life, that we may give honor and glory to you. 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: Hear the Good News: There is no sin so terrible that God’s love cannot forgive it.

P: ***God’s grace and mercy are unlimited and unconditional!***

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

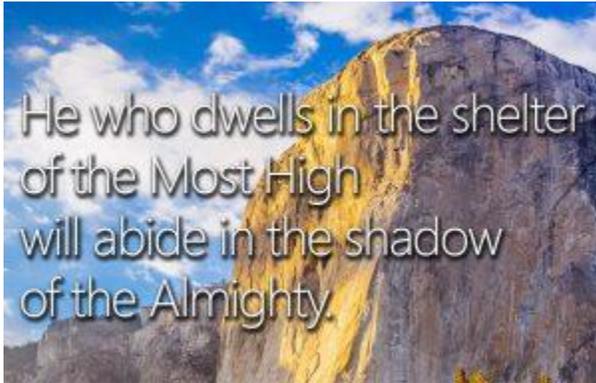
A: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16

Assurance of God's Protection Lay Leader



You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies

by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

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

Second Lesson Luke 16: 19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Carol



'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames."

But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house - for I have five brothers - that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." '

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

Sermon

Regrets, Anyone?

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Take Time to Be Holy

*1-Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in him always, and feed on his Word.
Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing, his blessings to seek.*

*2-Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Much time spent in secret, with Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct, his likeness shall see.*

*3-Take time to be holy, let him be thy Guide,
And run not before him, whatever betide;
In joy and in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in his Word.*

*4-Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul;
Each thought and each motive, beneath his control;
Thus led by his Spirit, to fountains of love;
Thou soon shalt be fitted, for service above.*



*Litany of Faith

L: We live in a world that calls us to look out for #1 – to put ourselves first.

P: *And yet, as disciples of Christ, we believe God created us for a purpose, and we are called to put God FIRST in our lives.*



L: The values of our culture tell us that we should seek our own glory and fame.

P: *But God calls us to live for God, and God alone.*

L: The demands on our time, attention and money are many, and it is easy for our relationship with God, and its claims on us, to be shoved to the fringes of our lives.

P: *It is difficult to know what to do, when we are pushed and pulled to and fro.*

L: We want to live Kingdom lives, that show the world how we feel, and what we believe about God.

P: *But what ends up happening is that our words say, “Take our lives, O God,” but our actions show otherwise. How are we to make our actions better match our words?*

A: *You know what is in our heart, O God. Guide and direct us and give us the strength to truly live for you!*

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: Holy and loving God, it is by your grace that we are what we are – not all that we yet may be, but wanting to be used by you in the saving work of your church. Take this offering as a sign of our commitment to be your servants. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

*Hymn #429

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

*1-Lord, you give the great commission:
“Heal the sick and preach the Word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission,
And the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose
With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.*

*2-Lord, you call us to your service:
“In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world my trust your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.*

3-Lord, you make the common holy:
 "This my body, this my blood."
 Let us all, for earth's true glory,
 Daily lift life heavenward,
 Asking that the world around us
 Share your children's liberty;
 With the Spirit's gifts empower us
 For the work of ministry.

4-Lord, you show us love's true measure:
 "Father, what they do, forgiven."
 Yet we hoard as private treasure
 All that you so freely give.
 May your care and mercy lead us
 To a just society;
 With the Spirit's gifts empower us
 For the work of ministry.

*Blessing

L: We have heard God's message to take off our blinders – to see the many ways and places we can serve.

P: We can no longer ignore the great needs that surround us, without the possibility of coming to the end of our lives and experiencing regret like the rich man.

L: Let us make the necessary changes NOW, that our lives might be joyful, and that God would be please with us.

P: We will take the time to open our eyes and hearts and do what is necessary to honor God and our neighbors.

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

**NO
REGRETS**

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.*

