



“ We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give. ”
— Winston Churchill

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
September 5, 2021 **Worship Service**



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709
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The Worship of God

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Lay Leader:



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

What is DISCIPLESHIP all about? It is about GIVING, dear friends. The word "disciple" means "follower and learner." We are called to follow Jesus and adhere to his teachings and lifestyle. Of course, we all know that we don't always DO as we SAY; and yet, as disciples of our Lord, we are called to LIVE OUT our faith and reflect the life of Christ. Otherwise, we are not faithful witnesses to God's transforming love and grace.

Elijah told the widow of Zarephath not to fear and to go and do as he said. She was destitute and probably fearful, and yet she did as the Lord's disciple told her. How many of us are actually that faithful – stepping out into the unknown and giving more than we feel like we have to give? That is truly what PROVIDENCE is all about = TRUSTING IN GOD TO PROVIDE NO MATTER WHAT! Can you do that and will you?

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Spread your open hands toward heaven.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

L: The Lord is like no other god.

P: Let us worship the Lord with gladness!

A: The Lord has made us and to the Lord we belong forever. Hallelujah!

*Hymn of Praise

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

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Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation. Refrain

*Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain*

*We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. Refrain*

*Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior. Refrain*

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess that we have praised you with our lips but have not glorified you with our lives. Have mercy on us, we pray, for our faith that fades under pressure, for our quick enthusiasm that just as quickly dies, for the hopes we proclaim but do not pursue. Forgive us, Lord God, and give us new trust in your power, that we may live for justice, and tell of your loving kindness by our words and actions. 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 of God's love for us: Our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed himself for our sins to rescue us from eternal separation from God.

P: *Grace and peace are ours through the mediation of Christ with our Creator God.*

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

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

A: *Thanks be to God!*

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 146

Praise for God's Help

Lay Leader



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

*I Kings 17: 8-16**The Widow of Zarephath*

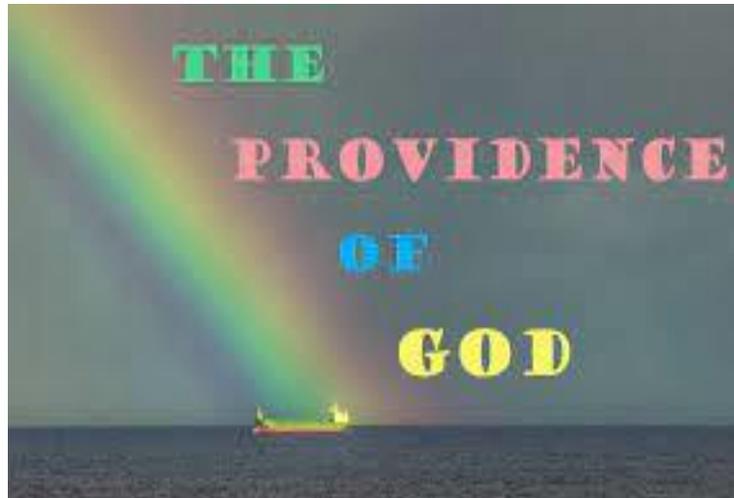
Carol

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' But she said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.' She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Providence

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

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*God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band.
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.*

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by thee our lot is cast;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever-sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.*

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.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation and Prayer of Consecration
The Words of Institution
The Sharing of the Elements
The Prayer of Thanksgiving



Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

God of Our Life

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*God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

*God of the past, our times are in thy hand;
 With us abide.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land;
 Be thou our guide.
 With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
 And faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*God of the coming years, through paths unknown,
 We follow thee;
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
 Our refuge be.
 Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
 Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

Blessing

L: As we leave this place, let us be committed to **LIVING** the gospel, seeking not human favor, but divine approval.

P: And let us remember that it is NOT submission BEFORE God, but devotion TO God, to which we are called in the name of Christ.

L: And 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.*

