



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 27, 2022 **10:00am Service**

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

The Worship of God

February 27, 2022 Transfiguration Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Alice Megonigal

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*In his wonder-filled book, *This Sunrise of Wonder*, Michael Mayne writes to his grandchildren: "If I could have waved a fairy grandfather's wand at your birth and wished upon you just one gift, it would not have been beauty, or riches, or a long life. It would have been the Gift of Wonder." He suggested that they set their sights not on success, but on a sense of AWE. That's what's going on at the Mount of Transfiguration. In this glimpse of glory, God tries to give the disciples the Gift of Wonder. Oh, that each of us might know AWE and WONDER!*

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

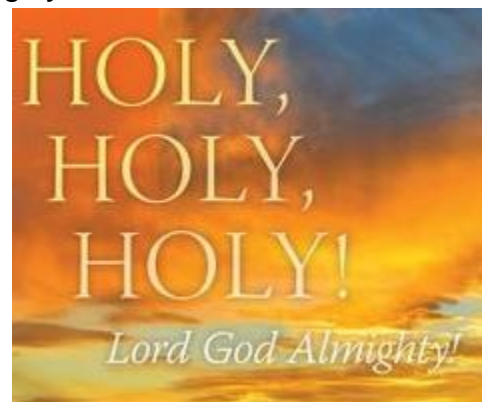
- L: Come up to me on the mountain.
- P: *A flame of fire bursts from the bush, but the bush is not consumed.***
- L: Come up to me on the mountain and wait.
- P: *We will turn aside and see this great sight, but why does this bush not burn?***
- L: Come up to me on the mountain, and I will show you the Way.
- P: *We shall take off our shoes, for the place where we stand is holy ground.***
- L: Behold, I have heard the crying of creation; I have seen her back groaning under her heavy burden. Rise, my dear people, and have no fear.
- A: *We shall climb up to God on the crown of the world, and the mountains and hills shall sing praises as we go.***

Hymn # 1

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God, Almighty

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.*



*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

Prayer of Confession

We know about your glory, O God, but too often it is second-hand information, instead of our own personal experience. Forgive us when we have stayed at the foot of the mountain, when you would have lifted us up into your holy and loving presence. Revive us with the wonder of your glory, that we may be inspired by your holiness, and challenged to deeper commitment. Hear us, we pray, for Jesus' sake. 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 and believe the Good News:

P: ***Our Holy and sovereign God is the same God who came to save us in Jesus Christ.***

L: Friends, our sins are forgiven, and we are freed to live the abundant life, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

P: ***Thanks be to God for the precious gift of forgiveness!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Exodus 24: 12-18 *The Gift of the Commandments*

Lay Leader: Alice Megonigal



The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Special Music

The Wonderful Grace of Jesus

The Bell Choir

Second Reading

Matthew 17: 1-9

The Transfiguration

Carol



Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

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

Sermon

Is True Worship Really About Sticking Our Heads in the Clouds?

Responding to the Word

Hymn

We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding
(tune: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #2 Hyfrydol*)

*We have come at Christ’s own bidding
To this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
For some token of God’s grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
That our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples
For a sign both clear and plain.*

*Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;
 Splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;
 Moses and Elijah marvel
 As the heavenly voice is heard.
 Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
 How the law and prophets meet:
 Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
 Stands transfigured and complete.*

*Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
 Fearful lest our faith decline,
 We like Peter find it tempting
 To remain and build a shrine.
 But true worship gives us courage
 To proclaim what we profess,
 That our daily lives may prove us
 People of the God we bless.*

Affirmation of Faith pg. 14 *Ecumenical Version of The Apostles' Creed*

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 cast all my cares upon you.

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

+Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, we give you thanks that you are not only Our loving Shepherd, but you are the Lamb as well. You know what it is like to try to follow the Shepherd's directions, and that we sometimes don't listen well. Thank you for all of your gifts to us and allow us to use them wisely. In your name we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 274, G2G

*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd
 (tune - #478, Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven)*

*1-You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
 You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
 Of the way you took and gave.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 You, whom we both scorn and crave.*

*3-You, who walk each day beside us,
 Sit in power at God's side.
 You, who preach a way that's narrow,
 Have a love that reaches wide.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 You, who are our pilgrim guide.*

*2-Clothed in light upon the mountain,
Stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory;
Beggared by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.*

*4-Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory;
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life.*



Blessing

- L: Go down from the mountaintop and do not question whether you are unworthy or able to live the life to which God calls you.
- P: *We will remember that God goes with us on this journey, and we will not hesitate to boldly serve our God!***
- L: And may the blessings...

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.*