

## **New Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**April 9, 2020**



**Maundy Thursday**

**Worship**

**Service**

**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE**

**(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)**

## The Worship of God (Bulletin to follow the YouTube online service)

**Welcome**

Lay Leader : Nancy Carol Willis

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

*We gather for this service, in remembrance of Jesus' last night with his disciples on what has come to be called Maundy Thursday, and the sacrifice he made the next day, on what we have come to call Good Friday. Our Lord is revealed to us in the bread and cup of which we partake. It is a solemn moment – maybe one in which we would like to linger. Unfortunately, that is impossible, for we know that Jesus' death is imminent. During this service of worship, the sanctuary will grow increasingly dark, and the communion table will be stripped bare, just as Christ will be stripped of his life on earth. Good Friday was inescapable for Jesus, for the powers of darkness surrounded him. May this service be a reminder for us all that, but for Jesus' death on the cross, the powers of darkness would surround and overwhelm us.*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

L: Our sinful nature makes us unworthy to come before God without a sacrifice.

**P: We come before God nevertheless, because the Son of God offered his own life, as a sacrifice for our sins.**

L: Because of Jesus' death, God is willing to make our hearts clean as though we had never sinned.

**P: We open our hearts and minds to the cleansing presence of the Holy Spirit, in affirmation of our Lord's atoning death.**

### Opening Prayer

*We see these sacred elements on the table before us, O God, and we are reminded that we still have much to learn about true humility, as seen in Jesus' sacrifice. Forgive us for our pride which causes us to accept the name of Christ, without following his way. Thank you for the gift of prayer – that we may pray to you, and that you pray for us. Share your grace with us, that we may learn the virtue of humility, and experience the peace of a humble heart. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen.*

### \*Hymn of Praise

*Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

*Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, The fount of life, The light of all,  
From the best bliss that earth imparts, We turn, unfilled, to you again.*

*Your truth unchanged has ever stood; You save all those that on you call;  
To them that seek you, you are good, To them that find you, all in all.*

*We taste you, O thou living bread; And long to feast upon you still;  
We drink of you, the Fountainhead, Our thirst to quench, our souls to fill.*

*Our restless spirits yearn for you, Wherever our changeful lot is cast,  
Glad when your gracious smile we see, Blessed when our faith can hold you fast.*

*O Jesus, ever with us stay; Make all our moments calm and bright;  
Chase the dark night of sin away; Shed over the world your holy light.*

## Meeting God in the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Scripture Lesson

Mark 15: 1-20

#### Jesus before Pilate

*As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.*

#### *Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified*

*Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish*



# Celebration of the Lord's Supper

## The Invitation

You are invited to partake in this sacrament. Please obtain the elements of bread and wine/juice so that we might all commune together.

## Prayer of Consecration

- L: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church family is scattered today, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.
- P: *Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on your grace. Send your Spirit of life and love to us this day, along with your blessing upon every table where your children shelter in place, that this Bread may be broken in love, and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live and breathe in us that we may honor you with our lives.***

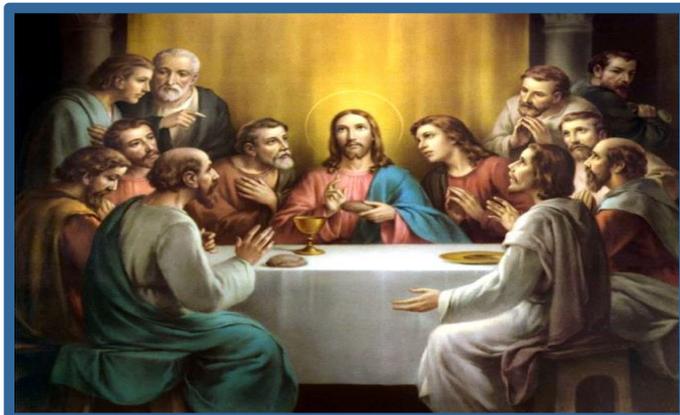
## The Words of Institution

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

- L: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God – the Bread of Heaven.
- P: *We are one in Christ in the bread we share. (Pause to receive the Body of Christ.)***
- L: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God – the Cup of Blessing.
- P: *We are one in Christ in the cup we share. (Pause to receive the Blood of Christ.)***

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- L: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.
- P: *Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.***



# Responding to the Word

## Special Music

*Rise Again*

Dallas Holm

Solo by Cheryl Shields

## Stripping of the Church

*We are at the  
close of this  
service. The  
purple fabric  
on the cross  
will be replaced*

*with black, and the communion table will be stripped,  
in order to forecast the events of Good Friday. It is  
meant to remind us of the great loss of Jesus' life and  
all that he meant to so many people. The last view of  
the chancel will be a light shining on the black draped  
cross, on which hangs a crown of thorns. Following this*

*scene, you are  
encouraged to  
sing a few  
Lenten hymns  
and reflect on  
the very  
significant  
events of  
Mundy  
Thursday  
and Good  
Friday.*

## Hymns

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Were every realm of nature mine,  
My gift would still be far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

*Were You There?*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh..., Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Repeat...*

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Repeat...*

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Repeat...*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Repeat...*

