

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
January 1, 2023    10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE  
(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)

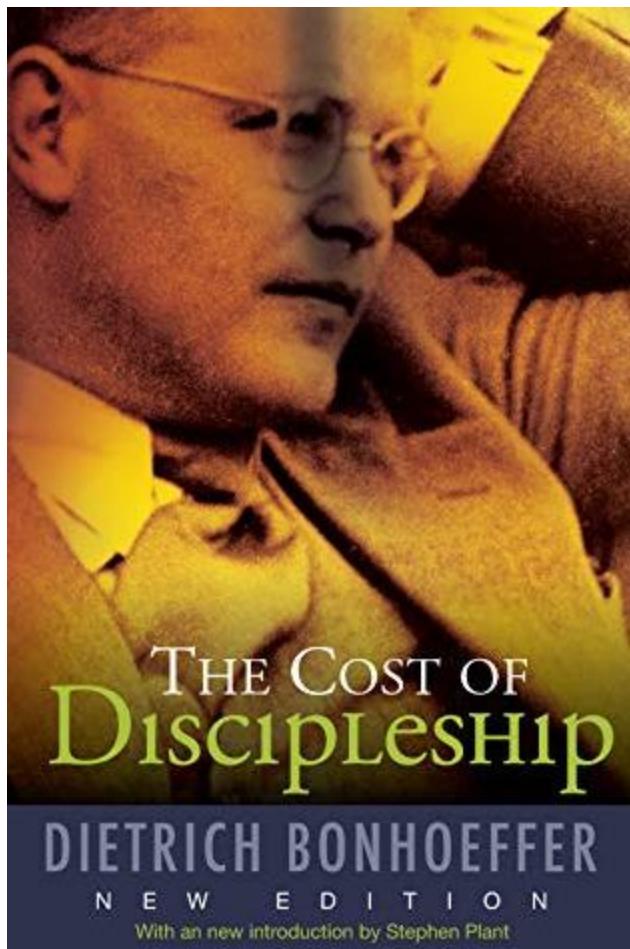
# The Worship of God

## January 1, 2022    Second Sunday of Christmas

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



"*The Cost of Discipleship*" is a book by the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, considered to be a classic of Christian thought. Bonhoeffer was born in Breslau in 1906. The son of a famous German psychiatrist, he studied in Berlin and New York City. He left the safety of America to return to Germany and continue his public repudiation of the Nazis, which led to his arrest in 1943. Linked to the group of conspirators whose attempted assassination of Hitler failed, he was hung in April 1945.

Bonhoeffer is one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century who seeks to illuminate the relationship between humans and Jesus, as found in his teachings and illuminated by the Sermon on the Mount.. What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today?

Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between "cheap grace" and "costly grace." "Cheap grace," Bonhoeffer wrote, "is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship....Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock....It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace

because it gives a man the only true life."

"*The Cost of Discipleship*" is a compelling statement of the demands of sacrifice and ethical consistency from a man whose life and thought were exemplary articulations of a new type of leadership inspired by the Gospel, and imbued with the spirit of Christian humanism and a creative sense of civic duty. Something to consider reading...

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

Based on Verse 2 of *Would I Have Answered When You Called?*

- L: Following Jesus is difficult. So many things have laid claim to our lives.
- P: We don't know if we can let go and truly follow him.
- L: Lord, search our hearts and speak to our spirits. Encourage us to freely follow you.
- P: Help us to be dependable disciples, joyfully proclaiming your transforming power and love.
- A: Singing verse 2 of "Would I Have Answered When You Called"  
Tune: Kingsfold (#434 – Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples)

*Would I have followed where you led  
Through ancient Galilee,  
On roads unknown, by ways untried,  
Beyond security?  
Or would I soon have hurried back  
Where home and comfort drew,  
Where truth you taught would not disturb  
The ordered life I knew?*

Hymn # 464

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*1-Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee; opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

*3-Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*



### Prayer of Confession

*Merciful Lord, we know that you want the best for us. It must really disappoint you when we fail to be the kind of devoted followers that you need. You know of the needs in this world and the capability that we have of meeting those needs and bringing words of hope and healing through actions of compassion and justice. Yet we are hesitant in our commitment to you and to ministries of peace. We want good things to happen. We just aren't sure that we are up to the tasks you set before us. Forgive us when we so easily doubt your call, your presence, and your abiding love. Lift us up from lives of self-pity and self-centeredness, and bring us to you with hearts filled with joy, praising you for opportunities to witness to your love in our service to your people. Heal us and restore us, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. 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: Although following Jesus is difficult, you can be assured that God is always with you, bringing you encouragement, strength and peace.
- P: **We will rise up and follow the One who offers his life for us.**
- L: We will all 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** Numbers 13: 1,2,17-14:3 Spies Sent into Canaan and the People Rebel L. Leader

*The Lord said to Moses, ‘Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites; from each of their ancestral tribes you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.’*

*Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, ‘Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold and bring some of the fruit of the land.’ Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.*



*So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. They went up into the Negeb, and came to Hebron; and Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the Anakites, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) And they came to the Wadi Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also brought some pomegranates and figs. That place was called the Wadi Eshcol, because of the cluster that the Israelites cut down from there.*

*At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the*

*congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, ‘We came to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Yet the people who live in the land are strong, and the towns are fortified and very large; and besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the land of the Negeb; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea, and along the Jordan.’*

*But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, ‘Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.’ Then the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we are.’ So they brought to the Israelites an unfavorable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, ‘The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size. There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.’*

*Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron; the whole congregation said to them, ‘Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become booty; would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?’*

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

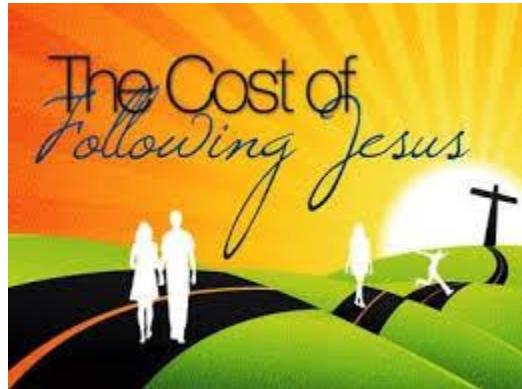
## Second Reading

Luke 9: 57-62

Would-Be Followers of Jesus

Jim

*As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'*



*And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'*

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

## Sermon

Where Is the Milk and Honey?

## Responding to the Word

### Hymn # 442

*The Church's One Foundation*

*1-The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is his new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*



*2-Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*3-Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*4-Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

## Dramatic Reading Based on the hymn "Give Me a Clean Heart"

Reader 1: I'm not good enough to follow you, O Lord. I haven't been the kind of person that you would seek for your disciple. I've lied, cheated, been hostile to others. I have not welcomed people who are different from me.

Reader 2: *I've tried my best to be a good person. I have faithfully participated in ministries of justice and help. I have worked tirelessly so that others may have hope and peace. I am truly ready to be your disciple.*

Reader 3: I get a picture of disciples in my mind who are a group of people who are smiling and following Jesus along the dusty roads and green hills of Galilee. It seems nice,

just walking with the Lord. Discipleship shouldn't be a problem for me. I can fit it into my schedule, I'm sure.

**Reader 4:** *I've seen "those disciples" before. They talk a good game, but when it comes to really being part of ministries of justice, they don't want to get their hands dirty. They aren't truly disciples. They are just playing a game. I watch out for them because they are hypocrites!*

**Jesus:** Come, follow me. I will heal your wounds, give you strength, stand with you, help you to bring peace, hope, and justice to others. But I warn you, the path is not easy. There is no simple way to be a disciple. It means truly dedicating your life to loving others. So again, I invite you to come, and follow me.

## 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.*

Prayer of Dedication

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### The Invitation

### The Prayer of Consecration

### The Words of Institution

### The Sharing of the Elements

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Going Out to Serve

### Hymn # 466

### O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1-O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

2-Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

3-Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.

4-My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.



## **Blessing**

- L: You have been healed and restored in and through Christ Jesus!
- P: ***We will go in peace, proclaiming the Good News of God's absolute, eternal love through ministries of peace and hope.***
- A: ***Amen!***

## **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.*