



New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
January 15, 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 15, 2023      Second Sunday after Epiphany Sunday

## Welcome and Announcements

### Sharing Our Vision

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



Complaining about the cost of discipleship? Take a lesson from this dog disciple:

In the northern Portuguese town of Sobrado, a lady has a dog named Preta. Preta leaves her owner's home every Sunday morning at 5:00 a.m., and walks 16 miles to a Roman Catholic church in time to take her usual place next to the altar for mass.

The dog stands and sits whenever worshippers do the same. She usually walks back home, though some of the parishioners will give her a ride. What is interesting is that the Portuguese newspaper *Correio da Manhã* has reported that church attendance has grown as many people have attended just to see this faithful dog. Not the faithful GOD – the faithful DOG. Go figure! Ever notice that “God” spelled backwards is “Dog”?

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

L: Friends, come and see what the Lord has done.

**P: *Let us draw near to the presence of God.***

L: Do not keep the goodness of God hidden in your heart.

**P: *Let us proclaim God's faithfulness and saving power.***

### Hymn # G2G462

*I Love to Tell the Story*

*1-I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.    R*

***Refrain: I love to tell the story;  
'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and his love.***

*2-I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word    R*

*3-I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.    R*



## Prayer of Confession

**God of power and might, you have shown us love, as well as awesome strength. In Jesus of Nazareth, you have come among us as One who serves. We confess that we often prefer to be served than to serve – and to be masters rather than servants. Forgive our tendency to shirk our service for you, when we may risk suffering. To be sent as lambs among wolves does not appeal to us, just as it didn't appeal to Jesus. Nevertheless, he became your Lamb to take away the sins of the world, including ours. Forgive us in the name of our Savior, and strengthen our resolve to live as you desire. 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: You are claimed as Christ's own, along with everyone who invokes the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**P:** *What a privilege it is to follow One who gave himself for us.*

**L:** Friends, what a privilege we have to claim the Good News of the Gospel -

**P:** *That in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

# Meeting God in the Word

## Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Isaiah 49: 1-7

The Servant's Mission

Lay Leader



*Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.*

*And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.'*

*And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that*

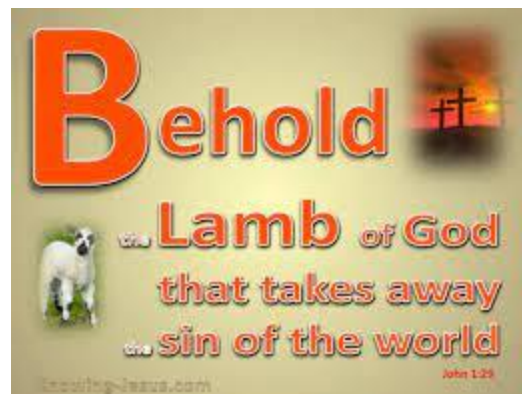
*Israel might be gathered to him, or I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength - he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'*

*Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'*

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



The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).



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

## Sermon

## Our Christ Story

## Responding to the Word

## Hymn # 343

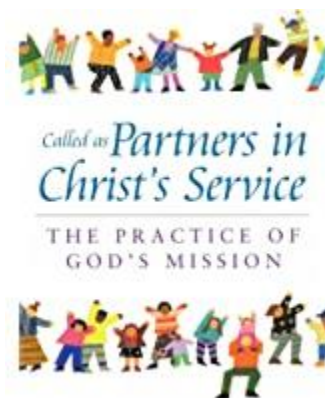
## Called as Partners in Christ's Service

1-Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring, to fulfill God's chosen end.

2-Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.

3-Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

4-So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.



## Litany of Faith

L: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as living sacrifices.

**P: *We offer ourselves as one body. Though we have many members, we are one body in Christ, each of us joined to the others.***

L: God has so made the body that the greatest honor is given to the weakest part, desiring that we take care of one another. If one of us suffers, we suffer together; if one of us is praised, we rejoice together.

**P: *God has so made the body that each of us will have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. We commit ourselves to their use on behalf of the common good.***

**A: *As we come together, may we do all things for the strengthening of the body and the glory of God.***

## Ordination & Installation of New Officers

To be ordained and installed: Jim Inners and Skip Leeson as deacons

To be installed: Judy Cooke as a deacon

Jane Adams, Barbara Bookhart, Beverly Cook as elders

Al Grimminger and Bill Shields as trustees

## 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 has 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: Creator of the world and Founder of the church, when we are unsure of accomplishing what you desire of us, you promise to renew our light, that our witness may be seen by many. Receive our money and talents of hand and heart and voice to spread the Good News of your grace and peace. Amen.

## Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 319

*Spirit*

**Refrain:**

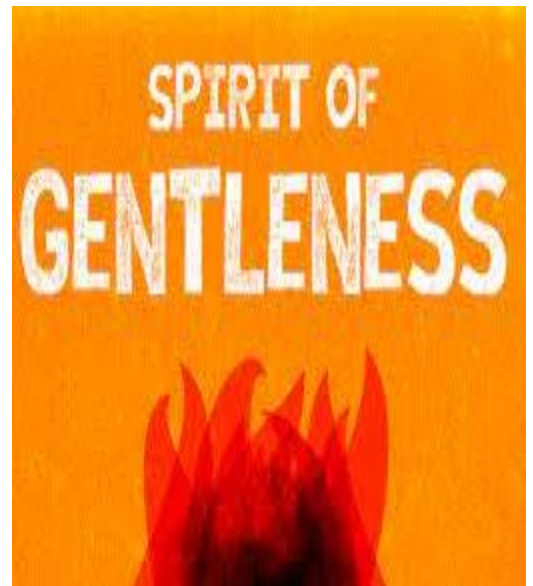
***Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,  
Wind, wind on the sea.***

1-You moved on the waters; you called to the deep;  
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
And over the eons you called to each thing,  
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” **R**

2-You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand;  
And you goaded your people with a law and a land.  
When they were confounded with idols and lies,  
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes **R**

3-You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill;  
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still.  
And down in the city, you called once again  
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **R**

4-You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;  
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.  
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. **R**



## Blessing

L: We have found the Messiah.

**P: As witnesses to the God who walks the earth, we proclaim the promise of the Spirit.**

L: In Christ's name, let us follow where the Spirit leads us.

**P: Carrying that promise to those with whom we walk and living that promise among those with whom we dwell.**

L: And may the blessings of God ....

## 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.*