



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 16, 2022 10:00am Service



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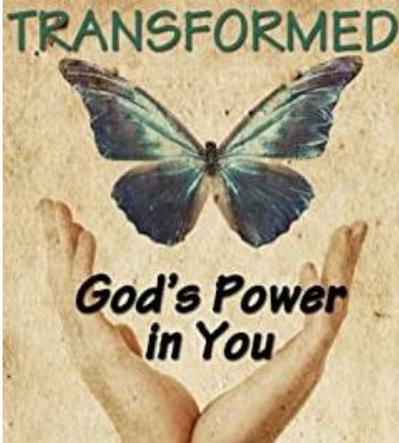
The Worship of God

January 16, 2022 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



The miracle of Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding in Cana was his first public miracle. During his earthly ministry, Jesus transformed countless lives. The 4 gospels record 37 miracles of Jesus, and these point to a small portion of the multitudes of people who were made whole by our Savior. The closing verse of John's Gospel says, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that the whole world could not contain the books that would be written." (Jn. 21:25) These acts of love and power drew people to Jesus, revealed his divine nature, opened hearts to his message, and caused many to glorify God. As we reflect on the miracle at Cana, may God open our minds and hearts to be transformed by God's power as well.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: Are you troubled by the fickleness of human love?
- P: Come and worship the Lord, whose love is true, faithful and unconditional.**
- L: Are you troubled by the harshness of human judgments?
- P: Come and worship the Lord, whose judgments bring wholeness and healing.**
- L: Are you troubled by the pride of human righteousness?
- P: Come, let us worship the Lord, whose righteousness is pure.**
- A: Let us praise the Lord our God, whose love can make us faithful, whose judgments can make us whole, and whose righteousness can make us pure.**

Hymn # 485

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
 So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
 And opened the life gate that all may go in.

**Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice.
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
 And give him the glory: great things he hath done!**

*Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see, **Refrain***

Responsive Prayer of Confession

- L: Dear Savior, you have come among us working wonders and signs. And yet, when you change the ordinary waters of our lives into the finest of wines, our tendency is to rationalize and try to explain, and this shows our failure to truly understand you.
- P: Forgive us when we try to shape signs of your life among us, to fit our own categories.**
- L: You challenge our assumptions about how the world is ordered, about what we can control, about what is rationally possible, and about who you are and how we can know you.
- P: Forgive us when our imaginations are too limited, our concepts too defined, or our vision too small.**
- A: Lord, Christ, open our hearts and minds to experience the marvelous, in the everyday rising of the sun, or the birthing of new life. Reveal to us your miracles of transformation and abundance, as signs of your overflowing grace at work around us and within us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.**

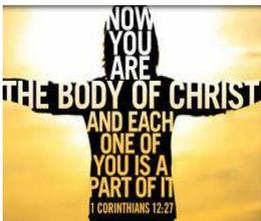
Assurance of Pardon

- L: Hear the Good News: Your God loves and rejoices over YOU,
- P: As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,**
- L: Friends, 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 *1 Corinthians 12: 1-12* *One Body with Many Members & Many Gifts* *Lay Leader*



Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

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

Second Reading

John 2: 1-12

The Wedding at Cana

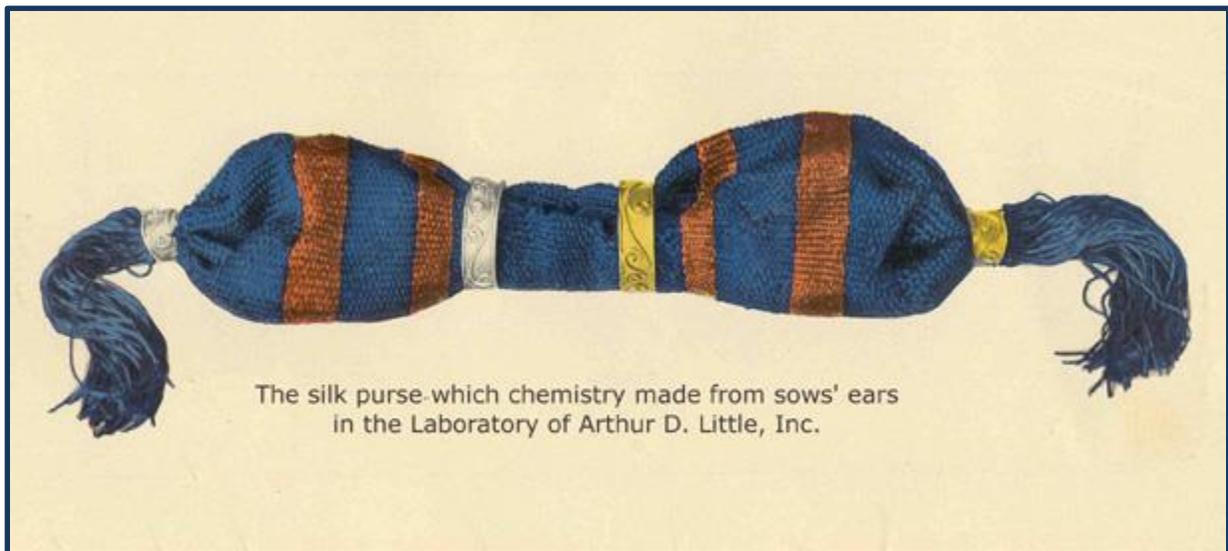
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On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.

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

Sermon

Can God Make Silk Purses Out of Us?



Responding to the Word

Hymn

In Cana at a Wedding Feast

Sung to the tune of *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* #288)

*In Cana at a wedding feast, Christ worked his first great sign.
There Jesus' mother told her son, "They don't have any wine!"
He called for six stone water jars; they filled them to the brim;
When water changed to wine that day, his friends believed in him.*

*Far from the town, the crowds pressed in, on Jesus' prayer retreat.
He healed the sick, then told his own, "You give them food to eat!"
Five loaves of bread and two small fish were all they found to share,
Yet thousands ate the meal he blessed, with baskets left to spare.*

*Out on the sea, the winds were strong; the stormy waves were high;
There Jesus' friends were filled with fear, when he came walking by.
"Take heart, for it is I!" he said, and helping Peter stand,
He calmed the storm and stirred their hearts; God's world was in his hand.*

*The blind, the poor, the outcast too, found Christ to be their friend.
"Have mercy!" Bartimaeus said. "I want to see again."
With great compassion and with grace, Christ gave him back his sight.
Through deeds of power, deeds of love, he filled our world with light.*

*O Lord, we see your wondrous signs and know through faith-filled eyes:
You are new wine that brings us joy, true bread that satisfies.
You give clear vision to your church, you make the wounded whole.
You give us hope when seas are rough; for you are in control!*

Litany of Faith

L: Jesus has invited us to a wedding – to dance and sing in celebration. Who will come?

P: *We will come and celebrate joyously with him!*

L: Jesus has invited us to a great feast with good food and great wine. Who will partake?

P: *We will come and feast with him!*

L: Jesus has invited us to receive new life – abundant life. Who will receive this gift?

P: *We will come, for we want to experience the wonderful life he offers!*



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: Loving God, thank you for caring for us in so many ways. We tend to take our blessings for granted and so we ask that you would make us more mindful of them and from whom they come. And make us good stewards of all that we have that you would look upon us with favor. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 333

Seek Ye First

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!*



Blessing

L: Go out into the world and look for the miraculous!

P: *We will allow God to use us as instruments in making miracles take place.*

L: Believe in the transformational power of God to make you and this world what it was created to be.

P: *We leave today having been reminded of the tremendous possibilities of life in Christ, and we look forward to living out God's plan for us!*

L: And may the blessings of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

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.*