



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 22, 2023 10:00am Service



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

The Worship of God

January 22, 2023 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



Being Salt for Christ:

To be a witness for God is to be a living sign of God's presence in the world. What we live is more important than what we say, because the right way of living always leads to the right way of speaking. When we forgive our neighbors from our hearts, our hearts will speak forgiving words. When we are grateful, we will speak grateful words, and when we are hopeful and joyful, we will speak hopeful and joyful words.

When our words come too soon and we are not yet living what we are saying, we easily give double messages. Giving double messages - one with our words and another with our actions - makes us hypocrites. May our lives give us the right words and may our words lead us to the right life.

- Henri J. M. Nouwen, Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: God said, "Let there be light."

P: *And there was light.*

L: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

P: *And the light shone in the darkness.*

L: Jesus said, "YOU are the light of the world."

P: *And the light shall shine before all nations, and it shall not be quenched/*

Hymn # 441

I Love Thy Kingdom Lord

*1-I love thy kingdom, Lord; the house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved, with his own precious blood.*

*2-I love thy church, O God; her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.*

*3-For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given, Till toils and cares shall end.*

*4-Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.*

Prayer of Confession

In our hearts, we believe the church has the best message our world could hear, O God. And yet, we become silent so easily, becoming like salt that has lost its saltiness – and light that grows dim. Forgive us for our lack of genuine concern and enthusiasm, to commit the best of ourselves to the ministry to which you call us. Refresh us by your Spirit, that we may accept your challenge, and invite others to become part of your family. 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: God is love and God's love was disclosed to us in the sending of Jesus into the world to bring us life, for he is the remedy for our sins.

P: *Let us believe the Good News of the Gospel -*

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

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Divisions in the Church

Lay Leader

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Second Reading

Matthew 4: 12-23

Jesus Begins His Ministry

Carol

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'



As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Sermon

Settling Down or Moving On?

Responding to the Word

Hymn #

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1-Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long! **R**

Refrain:
**In bold accord, come celebrate the
journey now and praise the Lord!**

2-Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! **R**

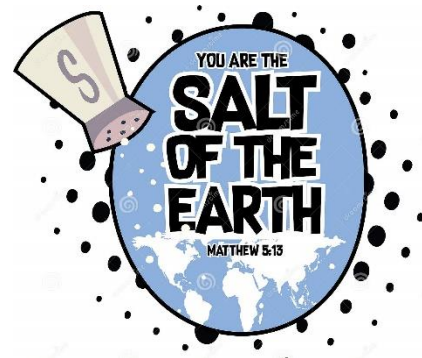
3-Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified! **R**

4-Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! **R**



Litany of Faith

- L: We are the salt of the earth.
P: We season our community with the love of God.
- L: We are the salt of the earth.
P: We preserve the life of Christ in the world.
- L: We are the salt of the earth.
P: We flavor our relationships with mercy and forgiveness.
- L: We are the salt of the earth.
P: We cause people to be thirsty for truth and justice.



L: We are the salt of the earth.

P: We help to thaw the icy hearts of those who are cold and dispassionate.

L: We are the salt of the earth.

P: We sow integrity, wholeness, and joy.

L: We are the salt of the earth.

P: We sprinkle goodwill, peace, and hope.

A: We are the salt of the earth. Let us remain ever salty, and ever faithful to God's call.

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: Loving and generous God, receive what we give to you in response to the loving gift of Jesus, your Son, so that we may be assured that you know of our love for you however small it may be in comparison to your gifts to us. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 435

We All Are One in Mission

*1-We all are one in mission, we all are one in call.
Our varied gifts united, by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission, compels us from above,
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.*



*2-We all are called for service to witness in God's name,
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same;
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace.
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.*

*3-Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.*

Blessing

L: God has called us to embrace the mission of Jesus as our own.

P: *Our sight is not equal to his vision, nor our strength to his perseverance.*

L: And yet, our God is a merciful God who gives light to those who walk in darkness, and strength to those who carry heavy burdens.

P: *As we return to our everyday lives, let us give thanks for God's provision. May we wisely use all that God has provided, to spread the Good News of the Gospel.*

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.*

