

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 23, 2022 10:00am Service



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

The Worship of God

January 23, 2022 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



What does good news look like to the poor? The poor have needs of all kinds, and they are looking for more than just bread, and more than cans to crush for coins. The poor are often hidden among us dressed in their finest, while secretly starving - watching church folk in the distance and hoping to see and experience good news. Maybe they are looking for a reason to have faith in a God that they cannot see, but too often, poverty is more than a fork in search of food. Sometimes poverty takes the form of a soul searching for God. May WE BE GOOD NEWS to those in need!

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: Come, let us worship the Lord,
P: Whose law revives the soul.
- L: Come, let us worship the Lord,
P: Whose testimony instructs the mind.
- L: Come, let us worship the Lord,
P: Whose precepts gladden the heart.
- L: Come, let us worship the Lord,
A: And the Lord God shall bless us!



Hymn # 332

Live into Hope

*Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
 The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!*

*Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
 Removing shades of pride and fear – A vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
 The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's Word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed,
 God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you know us all too well. We listen to this episode in the life of Jesus, and we hear the astonishment of the people gathered in worship as he proclaims the mandate and scope of his ministry. It may have been that for which they had hoped, but also what they may have feared. Change and challenge are always difficult, then and now. We are more inclined to turn our backs on opportunities of service, than pitching in to affect the needed changes that will promote healing and wholeness. Forgive us when we give lip service to you, and then slip into inaction. Give us the courage to be willing disciples and help us to be people of promise and hope. 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: The Spirit of God is upon us.

P: ***God has called us to bring Good News and liberation to the poor, to the marginalized, and to all who are in need anywhere.***

L: God's joy is our strength, and through God, we can do all things.

P: ***God's Spirit surrounds us with forgiveness and love. Thanks be to God!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 19

God's Glory in Creation and the Law

Lay Leader



The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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

Second Reading *Luke 4: 4-21 Jesus Begins His Ministry and Is Rejected at Nazareth* Carol

Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." ' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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

Sermon

Who Are We, and What Is Our Mission?



Responding to the Word

Hymn #434

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

*Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

*Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

Litany of Faith

L: We are the Body of Christ, and we belong **TO** and **WITH** each other.

M: Some seeing – some hearing – some speaking,

W: Some reaching out and touching and caring for others in the name of God.

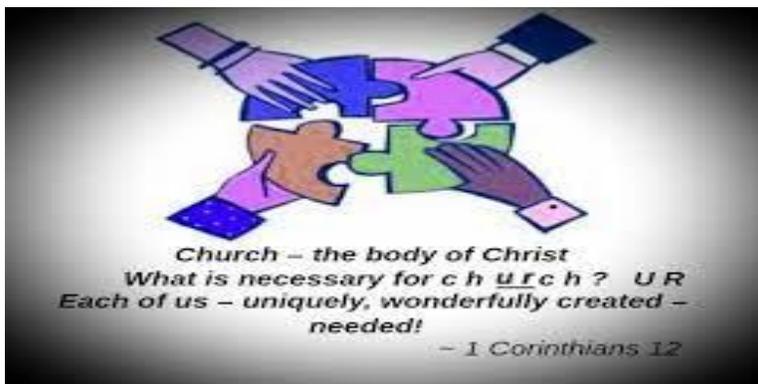
L: We are the Body of Christ, and we belong **TO** and **WITH** each other.

M: Some teaching – some preaching – and some healing,

W: Some even breaking ground in new places.

L: We are the Body of Christ! We are **many** and **varied**, and wonderfully **diverse**,

A: And we come gladly and joyfully to worship together!



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: Holy God, we give you thanks for the ways you touch our lives. Make us mindful that you created us and you ask us to be partners in ministry with you. Use us and all that we have and are for your purposes. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn #852 G2G

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

Sung to the tune *I'll Fly Away*

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.

When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.

Refrain: We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise.

We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.

*When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice. **Refrain***

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.

*When the Word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice. **Refrain***

When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.

*When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice. **Refrain***

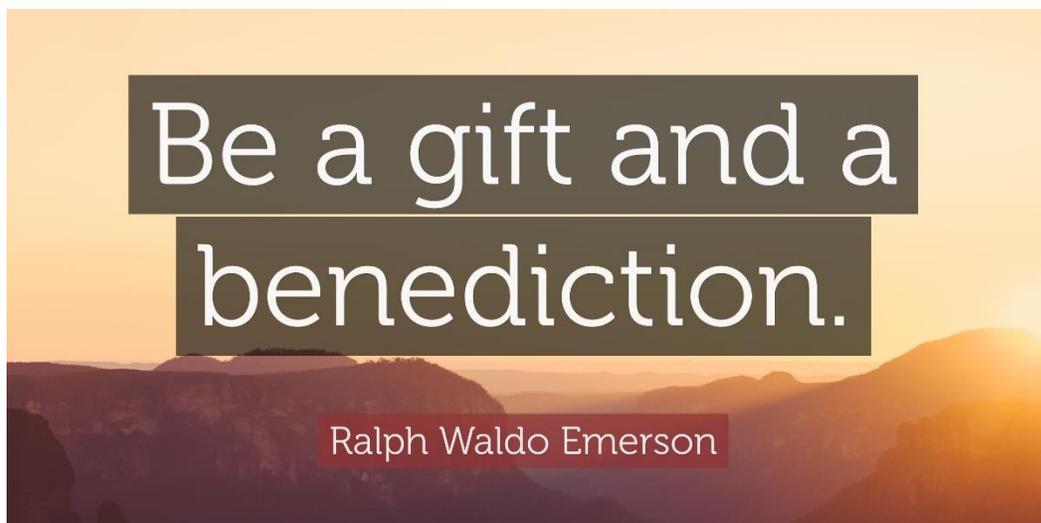
Blessing

L: We are Christ's Body, feeling blessed to be called to serve our Lord.

P: We go out from here, able and willing to share our time and talents.

A: May God lead us in the way we should go, that we would faithfully love and serve our God.

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.*