



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**January 30, 2022      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

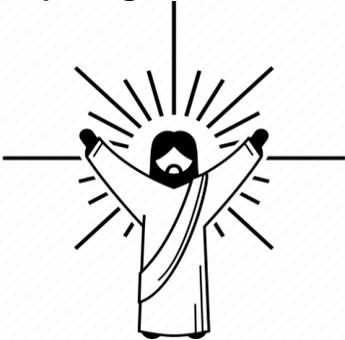
## January 30, 2022 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Donna Casey

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



- "The problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are so sure of themselves, while wise men are full of doubt." -Bertrand Russell
- On the subject of the Messiah, Fred Craddock is said to have pointed out that there is always enough suffering in the world to make the idea of a messiah a powerful one. On the other hand, he says that there is always enough pain in the world to render this statement ridiculous.

- "The Messiah Has Come"

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: From a world in which injustice sits upon the throne,  
**P: We turn to you, O Lord, our refuge from workers of woe.**
- L: With hearts from which courage has taken leave,  
**P: We turn to you, O Lord, our refuge from dealers in fear.**
- L: We have hewn out for ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water.  
**P: Now we turn to you, O Lord – the Fountain of Living Water,**  
**A: That courage might rule our hearts, and justice cover the earth.**

Hymn # 150 Come, Christians Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
 Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
 Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
 Praise is his gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!  
 Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;  
 His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
 Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
 On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,  
 Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"



**Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, on this day on which we hear of Jesus' claim to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy – to bring Good News and love to those in need – we recognize that, just like people in Jesus' hometown rejected his authority, we do the same thing in our own way. We fail to realize that any authority we have is BOTH a GIFT and a CHARGE, and they come from YOU. So, forgive us for exerting our own power and influence, as though we were independent of your authority, and give us your Spirit, that we may be faithful in working on your behalf. Grant us humility and compassion for those in need, and use us to carry out your purposes. 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: God's love lasts forever.
- P: **There is no place that it cannot reach, nor any person who is not touched with God's love and forgiveness.**
- 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 13: 1-13*

*The Gift of Love*



And now  
abide

**Faith**

**Hope**

these  
three;  
but the  
greatest  
of these is

**Love**

**LOVE**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



*If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

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

**Second Reading**

Luke 4: 21-30

Carol

*Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum. And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

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

**Sermon**

Acceptance or Non-Acceptance?



## Responding to the Word

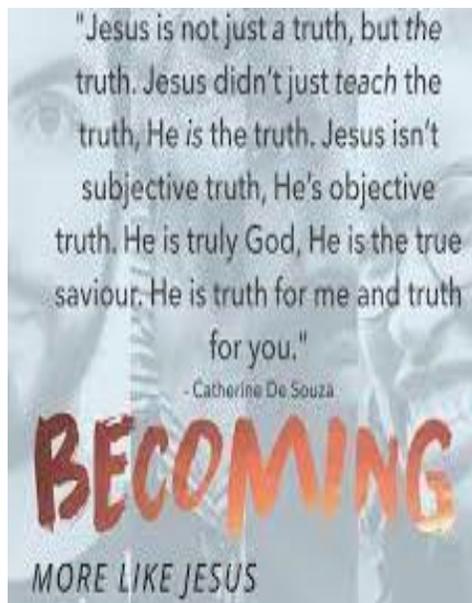
**Hymn # 309***Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!*

## Litany of Faith



- L: O God, when the world grows weary of our righteous confessions and rigid creeds,
- P: *Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about TALKING big; rather, he focused on DOING good.***
- L: When the world grows weary of our date-setting speculations and doomsday prophecies,
- P: *Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about CHASING mysteries; rather, he CONFRONTED realities.***
- L: When the world grows weary of our childish beliefs and worldly concerns,
- P: *Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about PONDERING eternity; rather, he PRACTICED love.***
- A: *So, FAITH – HOPE – AND LOVE; but the greatest of these is LOVE.***

## 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 and loving God, we give you thanks and praise for all the ways you provide for us. Make us good stewards of all our blessings and we might honor you with our lives. Amen.

## Going Out to Serve

### Hymn

*Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness*

(Tune: Holy Manna, #268 TPH, God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens)

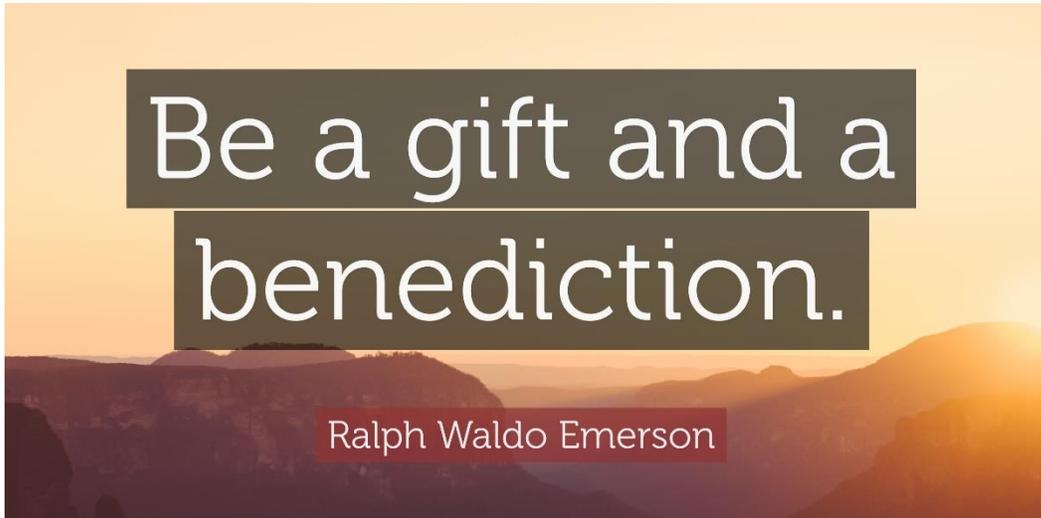
*Lord, we hear your word with gladness: You have spoken – we rejoice:  
Words of love and life and freedom – Help us make their truth our choice!  
Now in holy celebration, for your Word we worship you;  
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours to day to prove anew.*

*May we hear with understanding, by your Spirit taught and led.  
May the springs of all our being by your living Word be fed.  
May our hearts accept with meekness all the grace your light makes known.  
May obedience mark our footsteps till we make each word our own.*

*You have spoken; yours the fullness, ours the wealth of this your Word.  
Debtors, then, as living letters we must make your gospel heard!  
By your Spirit's power transform us; shed your saving light abroad  
Till our lives by love in action show our world the truth of God.*

**Blessing**

- L: People of God, don't forget that the truth seeks to break in upon you, in the most unexpected places and times, and from the most unlikely of sources.
- P:** *As we go through this week, we will open our hearts and minds to hear and receive the transforming Word of God, however it may come to us.*
- L: As you do this, know that God the Father, Son, and Spirit are walking beside you to lead you to the truth. And may the blessings ...

**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.*