

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 9, 2022 10:00am Service



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

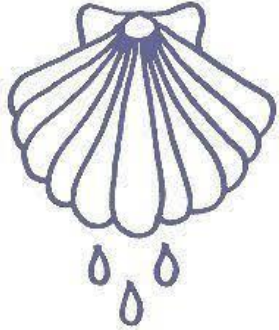
The Worship of God

January 9, 2022 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



Have you ever truly reflected on the significance of your baptism? When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him, just as it does on us at our own baptism. Some denominations separate Spirit baptism from water baptism, arguing that for Jesus, they were sequential, not identical. This seems to me to be an artificial division of one cohesive event into two arbitrary parts. Clearly, for Jesus, his baptism served as the definitive pronouncement of his true identity being the Son of God, and the official inauguration of his ministry; and both the water and the Spirit were integral parts of this pronouncement. It is the same for us; in our own baptism we find our true identity – claimed forever by Christ and permanently sealed with a cross on our foreheads. We are brought into God's

family and given the name "child of God," and we receive our vocation to live as faithful disciples of the Lord. May God give us the wisdom, discernment, and strength to live out our baptisms faithfully!

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: With steadfast love and growing faith,

P: ***We come as the people of Christ.***

L: With prayers of hope and songs of joy,

P: ***We come to worship God, our eternal and ever-loving Creator.***

L: With thankful hearts and humble prayers,

P: ***We come to give God glory and praise.***

A: ***We gather together as people of faith and hope, to celebrate the Good News of God's love.***

Hymn # 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Love, divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Prayer of Confession

Lord God of creation, you have promised that you will never leave us, and yet, how quickly we turn from you, and from each other. We are content to let our worship and efforts at living faithful lives remain theoretical. O God, let the sickness within us be healed, and fill us you're your Spirit. Let your Word of hope sound in our cities, and your voice of mercy comfort our towns. Give us teachable spirits, that we may learn again and again what things come first – what truths endure - and what actions are worthy of your grace and mercy. Today, give us your joy and vision for living as your disciples. Loving God, we give you thanks for all that we have and are, and now, 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 always with us, bringing us peace and forgiveness.
P: **As new creations in Christ, God shares new and fresh opportunities every day.**
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 *Isaiah 42: 1-9*

The Servant, a Light to the Nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.



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

Second Reading

Matthew 3: 13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'



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

Sermon

Commissioned with Water for Service

Responding to the Word

Hymn Lyrics-#72

Music-#388

When Jesus Came to Jordan

Sung to tune #388 – O Jesus, I Have Promised)

*When Jesus came to Jordan, to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, but as God's Holy One.*

*He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.*

*He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss;
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.*

*So when the dove descended on him, the Holy One,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace begun.*

Litany of Faith

L: Lover of souls, you seal us by your Holy Spirit in baptism and claim us as your own forever. May our offering of beautiful worship be acceptable in your sight.

P: Lord, give strength and wisdom to your people and bless us with peace.

L: Lover of souls, you created the heavens and the earth. We praise you that you make holy such basic things of earth – water for baptism, grapes and grain to sustain our bodies and souls.

P: Lord, give strength and wisdom to your people and bless us with peace.

L: Lover of souls, you called the light into being. Let your light perpetually shine on those who commit their lives to love and serve you.

P: Lord, give strength and wisdom to your people and bless us with peace.

L: Holy God, you move over the waters. Immerse us in your grace and mark us with your image. Raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by your Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

P: Lord, give strength and wisdom to your people and bless us with peace.

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:

God of all times and places, many of us return to this place again and again, expecting spiritual refreshment and growth in grace. Bless all that we do to make this a place of renewal for all who will come to Jesus Christ. And use this offering to accomplish your purposes in and through us. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 443

O Christ, the Great Foundation



**O Christ the great
foundation on which
Your people stand
To preach Your true
salvation in every
age and land:**

*O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand
To preach your true salvation in every age and land:
Pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.*

*Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,
We bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own,
By grace we were invited, by grace we make you known.*

*Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,
Where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak,
There let your church awaking, attack the powers of sin.
And, all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.*

*This is the moment glorious when he who once was dead
Shall lead his church victorious, their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation, his heavenly kingdom brings,
The final consummation, the glory of all things.*

Blessing

L: The Holy Spirit has touched us this day, reminding us of the blessing of new life in Christ.

P: *Let us go forth from this place to do good, and to witness to God's love, with our lives of service.*

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.*