



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 13, 2022 10:00am Service



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

The Worship of God

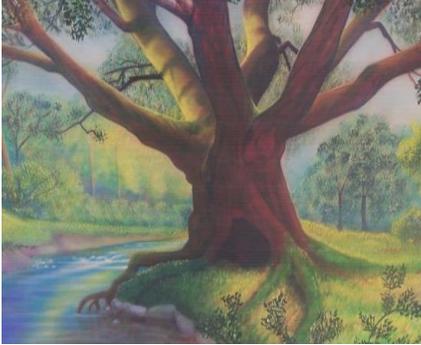
February 13, 2022 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



This morning we focus on the beatitudes, and we learn what “blessedness” is to God. It is not about the “good life.” It is about a life that is good. The Hebrew writers have given us a very simple image to understand the tension between “happiness” as the world defines it, and “happiness” as God offers it. It is the image of a tree – planted by streams of living water – a tree that is so deeply rooted in the ways of God that no matter how violent or desolate the world around us may become – we stay connected in a very deep and basic way – connected to the vast oceans of God’s grace. May the Spirit enable to always stay connected to our Creator.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: God reveals himself not to those who are self-sufficient or self-righteous,
P: *But to those whose minds are open, whose wills are receptive, and whose souls are humble.*
A: *In that spirit, let us come to worship the Lord our God with praise and thanksgiving.*

Hymn # 476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

*O worship the King, all glorious above!
 O gratefully sing God’s power and God’s love;
 Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
 Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

*O tell of God’s might, O sing of God’s grace,
 Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
 The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
 And bright is God’s path on the wings of the storm.*

*The earth with its store of wonders untold,
 Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
 Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
 And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.*

*Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.*

Prayer of Confession

Despite your warnings through prophets and psalmists, O God of truth, we are frequently deceived by the beauty of palaces and cathedrals. Too often we give heed to glamorous lies rather than simple truths. We misplace our trust when we put our trust in such things and persons, rather than in you. You speak through seemingly unconventional people like John the Baptist and heal the sick through people of no worldly means like Jesus of Nazareth. You comfort the dying through servants like Mother Teresa. Forgive our admiration of false glories and focus our attention on the qualities of true blessedness that we might seek to reflect these qualities to the world. 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: Friends, you are blessed if you believe the Good News Jesus preaches to the poor and seek to be the Good News of God's love and grace for the world.

P: *We do not find Jesus Christ to be a stumbling block, and we desire to live in the way to which he calls us.*

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 *Jeremiah 17: 5-10* *Be a Tree Planted by Water*

Lay Leader: Jane Adams



Jeremiah 17:5-8

Roots:
Building Deep
in a
Shallow World

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse - who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

Special Music

Second Reading

Luke 6: 17-26

Blessings and Woes

Carol



He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

Sermon

Planted by a River

Responding to the Word

Hymn

The One Is Blest tune – 466 (O for a Thousand Tongues)

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|---|--|
| <p>1 That man is blest who, fearing God,
From sin restrains his feet,
Who will not stand with wicked men,
Who shuns the scorners' seat.</p> | <p>3 That man is nourished like a tree
Set by the river's side;
Its leaf is green, its fruit is sure,
And thus his works abide.</p> |
| <p>2 Yea, blest is he who makes God's law
His portion and delight,
And meditates upon that law
With gladness day and night</p> | <p>4 The wicked, like the driven chaff,
Are swept from off the land;
They shall not gather with the just,
Nor in the judgment stand.</p> |
| <p>5 The Lord will guard the righteous well, their way to him is known;
The way of sinners, far from God, shall surely be o'erthrown.</p> | |

Litany of Faith

L: Blessed are those who have daily dialogue with God. Their faces will shine like the sea.

P: *Blessed are those who depend upon the Lord. They shall throw away their crutches for no longer will they need them.*

L: Blessed are those whose faith moves them to compassion. They will warm our hearts and teach us to love ourselves.

P: *Blessed are those who persevere. Their courage will give us hope; their patience will calm our fears.*

L: Blessed are those who trust in the living God. Their joy in worship will light our path.

P: *Blessed are those whose love of the church reveals deep faith. They know the living God and they follow where he leads them.*

A: *Blessed are those whose faith erupts in mission. Their witness will show us the power of God grace and mercy.*

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

+Prayer of Dedication: In our lives, O God, we are not as fruitful as you call us to be. But today we pray that you would receive what we are, encourage us to become what we can be, that we might help to bring about true blessedness on earth. May this offering be used for that purpose. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 379

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

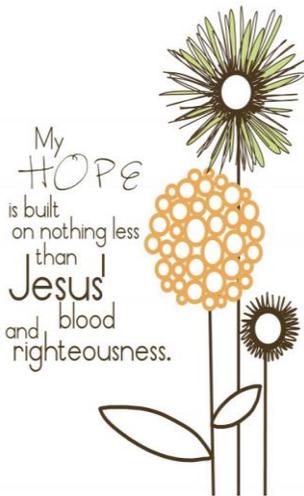
*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

**Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

*When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain***

*His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain***

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. **Refrain***



Blessing

L: We have heard today what it takes to be blessed or happy in God's eyes.

P: *Over the next week, may we reflect on how we might draw closer to this goal, that our lives might become a reflection of God's love. 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.*