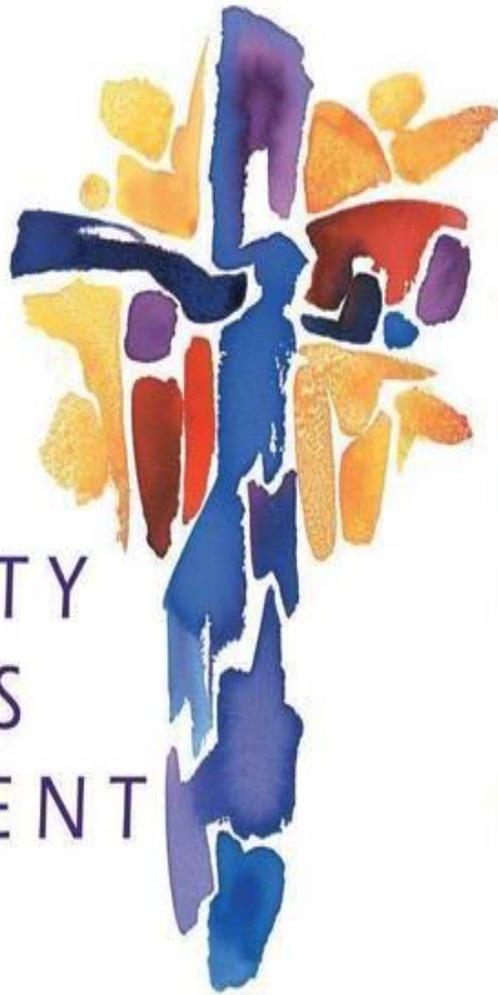


THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT



RETURN

to the

LORD
YOUR
GOD

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 26, 2023 10:00am Service



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

The Worship of God

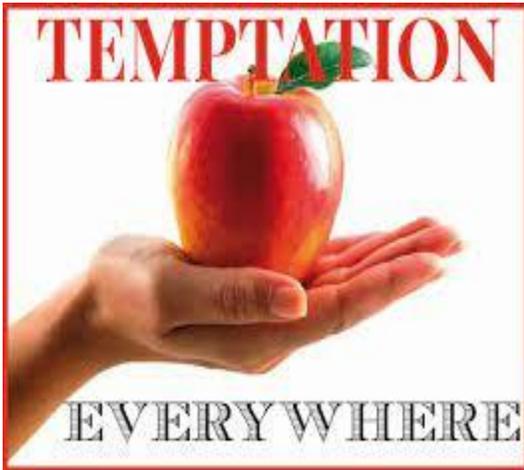
February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



On the theme of temptation:

“Temptations, when we meet them at first, are as the lion that roared upon Samson; but if we overcome them, the next time we see them, we shall find a nest of honey within them.” John

Bunyan, *The Works of That Eminent Servant of Christ*

“It’s no sin to be tempted. It isn’t the fact of having temptations that should cause us shame, but what we do with them. Temptation is an opportunity to conquer. When we eventually reach the goal to which we are all striving, God will look us over - not for diplomas, but for scars.”

Peter Marshall, quoted by Catherine Marshall,
A Man Called Peter

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: We have gathered in the presence of God our Creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.
- P: *We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship, that we may know the joy of faithfulness.***
- L: We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in times of trial and rejoicing.
- A: *In our living and in our dying, we belong to God. In the shadow of God’s wings, we sing for joy. Let us worship our God.***

Hymn # 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1-Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.

2-As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

3-And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

4-Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
As Easter of unending joy, we may attain at last!

Prayer of Confession

We have learned to accept temptation's power, without feeling a sense of guilt, O God. It surrounds us just like the air we breathe, and we let it become like the breath that sustains our lives. Such life does not flourish, however, and we feel close to death. Forgive us for our ignorance of the truth of temptation's power to corrupt and kill, and for not experiencing victory over temptation through Christ. Strengthen our resolve to live for you, that all we do will honor you. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Just as through human disobedience, all became sinners, so through Jesus Christ, we all have the power to become just.

P: ***We will believe the Good News of the Gospel -***

A: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 The First Sin and Its Punishment

Lay Leader



The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Special Music

Second Reading

Matthew 4: 1-11

Jesus' Temptation

Carol

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you

are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.



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

Sermon

Temptation – Overcome by It or Freed from It?

Responding to the Word

Hymn

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

1-He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. **R**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me; By his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

2-Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. **R**

3-Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **R**

4-And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victor's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. **R**

*Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question One

Q: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

A: **That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself but to my faith**

ful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins, and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven, not a hair an fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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.

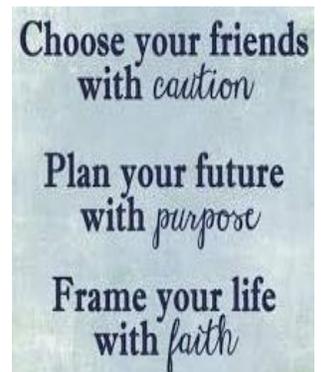
Prayer of Dedication: Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for all the way you provide for us. Encourage us to follow your example, being generous in spirit and with our resources, that others might be blessed. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn

Friends in Faith

<p>1-Friends in faith who follow Jesus, Hear the message of the cross: Worldly wisdom now is folly; Worldly riches count as loss.</p>	<p>3-Friends who dare to follow Jesus, Trust and pray through darkest night: Christ has conquered death and evil; Christ is joy and life and light.</p>
<p>2-Friends who strive to follow Jesus, Walk the way that Jesus trod: Spirit-filled in human weakness, Cast your cares upon our God.</p>	<p>4-Firm in faith, now follow Jesus; Live the gospel you have heard: Be good news to all who know you, Loving doers of the Word.</p>



Blessing

L: Once humanity's obedience made many righteous.

P: We pray that all would receive God's abundant grace and mercy, and walk in the way of obedience.

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.*