



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
March 5, 2023 10:00am Service



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

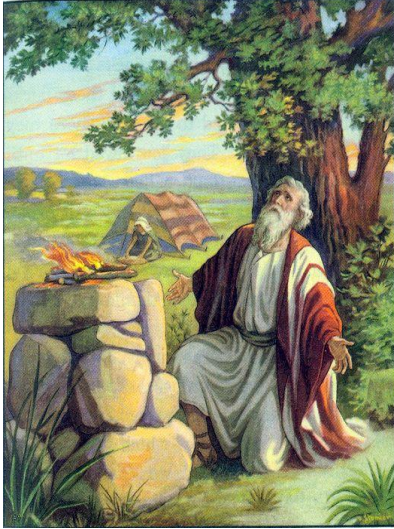
The Worship of God

March 5, 2022 Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



Can you even imagine God choosing YOU to become the father or mother of a nation – to pick up from your home and go to who knows where, and you are not really sure of the “why” God has? God waited for the right time to call Abram and he wanted to be chosen because of his faithfulness. And yet, he was chosen because he possessed superior logic and in some way, he understood God and God’s call. This ability earned him the right to be called by God.

Of course, he was concerned because he was childless and he wondered if Eliezer, the servant who was in charge of Abram’s house, would become his heir. He was also concerned about the land that the Lord had promised to him and his family who would come after him. It may be difficult for us to understand the HOWS and WHYS behind God’s purpose and Abram’s positive response to God’s call. May the Spirit work within us that we might draw closer to God and that we might have some understanding of how to respond to the call of God.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: ***And also with you.***

L: Come seek God’s face. Wait for the Lord and take courage.

P: ***We seek God’s face and wait for the Lord Jesus Christ, for he gives us courage and strength.***

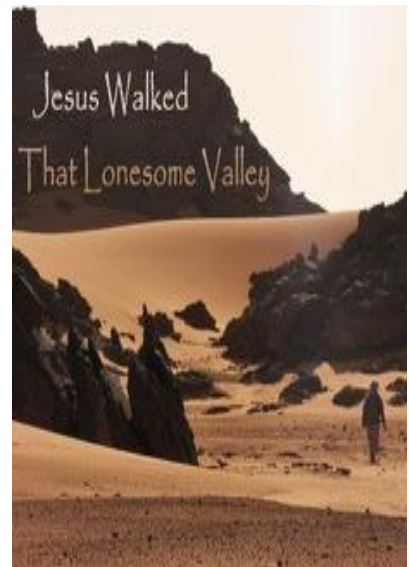
Hymn # 80

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

*1-Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
He had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him,
He had to walk it by himself.*

*2-We must walk this lonesome valley,
We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us,
We have to walk it by ourselves.*

*3-You must go and stand your trial,
You have to stand it by yourself;
O, nobody else can stand it for you,
You have to stand it by yourself.*



Prayer of Confession

O God, we drift from one day to the next with no real purpose to being alive. And yet, we long for life in your kingdom and dream of better days which we call tomorrow. Forgive us for detaining that tomorrow by not listening to your voice which calls us to live our days with you. Open our ears and our hearts in order that, as we hear your call, you may be able to work a mighty work through us in your church today. 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: God gives us new opportunities each day to start fresh and new.

P: ***Through God's Spirit, we are empowered to celebrate life fully and to appreciate all the gifts of life.***

L: Our God forgives us and empowers us to start over again.

P: ***We believe the Good News of the Gospel - In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

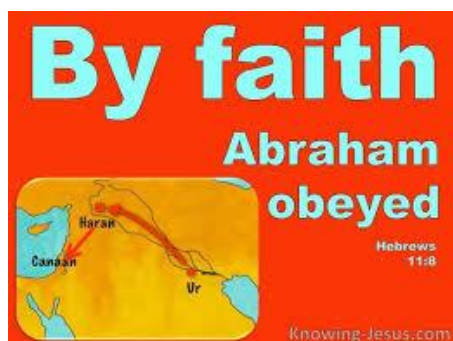
Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-19

The Faith of Abraham

Lay Leader



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is

God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old - and Sarah herself was barren - because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, 'It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named after you.' He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead - and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

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

Leave your
country and
go to the land
which I will show you.

Genesis 12:1



Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

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

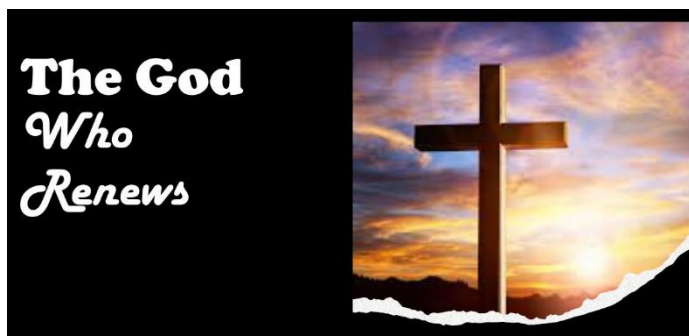
Sermon

Blessings and Not-Yets

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 522

Lord, When I Came into This Life



1-Lord, when I came into this life, you called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

2-Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

3-In all tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
Let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

4-So, help me in my unbelief and let my life be true;
Feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.

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 extravagant love, fill our spirits with love and place upon our hearts your call to serve in your name. We ask that you dedicate our gifts and our lives to your faithful service. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving



Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 282

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

*1-If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
With hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength whate'er betide thee,
To bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love,
Builds on the rock that nought can move.*

*2-Only be still, and wait God's leisure,
In cheerful hope, with heart content.
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
And all discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear,
To One who holds us always dear.*

*3-Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
But do thine own part faithfully;
Trust the rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
The soul secured by trust indeed.*



Blessing

- L: May the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus – the One who took on our punishment willingly.
- P: We will bear our crosses like he did – the One who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant. And, in the end, he was raised up and given the name above all others.**
- L: May your lives declare the Lordship of Jesus Christ today and every day, and may the blessings of God.....

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.*