

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 18, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

June 18, 2023 Third Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader –

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



It's a story I hear every year, but not one I enjoy – men and women injured or killed in the dangerous occupation of farming, their crops left standing in the fields, neighbors and friends gathering to bring in the harvest for their widows and children.

These farmers knew what they needed to do. No discussion was necessary. Moreover, there wasn't time for niceties. After all, their own fields

needed attention, and when the crops are ready for harvest, the crops are ready for harvest.

My clue came from the men and women who stepped out of the grain trucks to hand the young widow and her children the receipts for the grain they'd taken to the storage elevators. Their affection for the widow was obvious, but not demonstrative. The grizzled and sunburned workers were clearly having a hard time looking into her eyes, and accepting her gratitude.

The mood seemed to be that no thanks were necessary. This was not, I sensed, an obligation, or a gesture of sympathy, or pity, or even love. For the good people of this rural American countryside, the harvest of the widow's crops was as organic as a heart-beat, as much a part of life as breathing. And who expects to be thanked for breathing?

- CBS Reporter, Roger Welsch, Neighbor Harvest

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Let us listen and be clear in our minds. God's Spirit is calling to us now.

P: *We have come to this time of remembrance and celebration, and we are filled with joy, hope, and expectation.*

L: May God's Spirit guide us in this time of worship, and in the living of our days for Jesus Christ.

Hymn # 150

Come, Christians Join to Sing

*1-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!*

2-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!



3-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

God of unity and peace, you know that we talk much about peace, while at the same time making trouble for ourselves and for each other. We disagree with one another and quarrel – in church, at home, at work, and even between nations and religions. We let our loyalties to things and ideas, and even our nation, surpass our loyalty to Jesus Christ. Sometimes we believe that worldly wisdom looks better than the truth shown us in your incredible Word. We hide from the cross, thinking ourselves too good or grand for such humiliation. Forgive us in your mighty mercy. Embrace us with the Spirit's power of reconciliation. Fill us with a powerful light that shines with love into the entire world. May we become even more committed to living Christ-like lives today and every day. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: We have the opportunity every day to ask God to be forgiven and for it to be accomplished through his grace and mercy.

P: ***What a blessing to be loved by God so much!***

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel and live like it is true!

P: ***Thank God for fresh starts so that we can begin anew with assurance and hope.***



Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *Romans 5: 1-8* **Results of Justification from God** **Lay Leader**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance



produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person some-one might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

Second Lesson *Matt. 9: 35 - 10:8* *Called to Serve God with a Great Harvest* *Carol*

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'



Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaan-ean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

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

Sermon

Jesus & Company

Responding to the Word

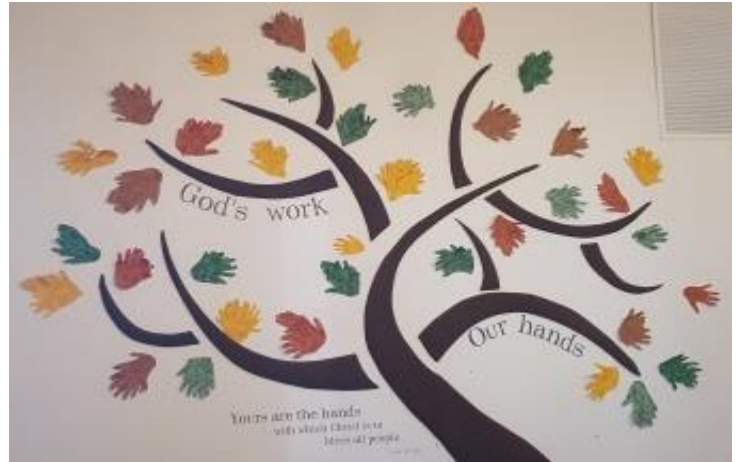
Hymn # 514

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

1-Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy;
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2-Christ is able to make us one,
At the table he sets the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and deed express.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3-Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!



Litany of Faith

L: O God of Peter and Andrew, Mary and Martha, you change simple people into powerful disciples.

P: *The reign of God is at hand. Let us proclaim the Good News in word and deed.*

L: O God of St. Francis, you teach us to minister to the poor, by taking your place at their side.

P: *The reign of God is at hand. Let us proclaim the Good News in word and deed.*

L: O God of John Calvin, you turn fields into pulpits, and streets into sanctuaries.

P: *The reign of God is at hand. Let us proclaim the Good News in word and deed.*

L: O God of Mother Teresa, instead of waiting for them to come to you, you lovingly went to the sick.

P: *The reign of God is at hand. Let us proclaim the Good News in word and deed.*

L: O God of nameless ones who would become your disciples, if we would but lead them in the way of the Lord, help us not to obstruct their path.

A: *Truly, O God, your reign is at hand. In all that we do and say, may we proclaim the Good News with all that we have and are, in order that we might be your faithful disciples.*

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

God of life and hope and new beginnings, we bring our gifts to further your work in the world. May our gifts help to bring new possibilities to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, loneliness and warfare. May our gift help to enable us to become peacemakers, and for us all to cover the earth with wholeness, reconciliation and shalom. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 429

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

*1-Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word,"
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose, with renewed integrity;
With Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*

*2-Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*

*3-Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us share you children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*

*4-Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;]
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*



Blessing

L: Take the love of Jesus Christ into all the world, taking the blessings of our Creator to share with one and all.

P: We will take the strength and resolve of the Spirit with us, allowing the Spirit to work fully within us, today and every day.

L: And may the blessings of God ...

Congregational Meeting to Elect Nominating Committee

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.*