



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 25, 2023 10:00am Service

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

The Worship of God

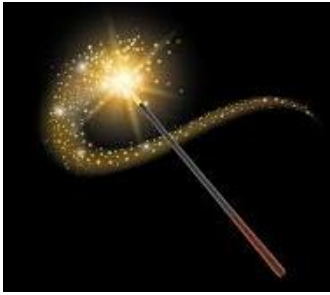
June 25, 2023 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



Wayne Dyer said, "Transformation literally means going beyond your form."

Mirelle Guilano said, "Just as established products and brands need updating to stay alive and vibrant, you periodically need to refresh or reinvent yourself." What does this say about the church's need to be reborn?

In fairy tales, transformation is easy. All you need is a magic wand. With a magic wand, the prince becomes a toad, or a house becomes a castle. In our world, transformation takes more than a magic wand. But it's fun to speculate. How would you fill-in-the-blank of this question: If I had a magic wand, I would _____. When the magic wand doesn't work, what determines if you are willing to "dig in" and do the hard work of transforming yourself, or of partnering with God to affect transformation?

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Christian discipleship demands complete surrender to Jesus Christ.

P: ***We confess that, too often, evidence of our piety is in our minds rather than our actions.***

L: Jesus calls his disciples to put him first and last. All that we do or think is to be based on our commitment to him.

P: ***May God guide us to make a total commitment, as we consider the cost of discipleship.***



Hymn # 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

1-God of grace and God of glory,
On thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2-Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

3-Cure thy children's warring madness,
 Bend our pride to thy control;
 Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
 Rich in things and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
 Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4-Set our feet on lofty places;
 Gird our lives that they may be
 Armored with all Christlike graces,
 Pledged to set all captives free.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 That we fail not them nor thee!
 That we fail not them nor Thee!

Prayer of Confession

O God, we know that, through Christ's death on the cross, we have died to sin. And yet, sin continues to try to get a hold on us, and we have difficulty letting Christ raise us to new life. Forgive us for our lives being a witness which denies our baptism, and fails to destroy the power of sin in them. Give us faith which is strong enough to convince us of the need to die to self, and be resurrected into new life. Help us to be truly alive in Christ. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed himself for our sins, to rescue us from a world that is blind to God's love and grace.

P: **Grace, peace and mercy are ours through the new life Christ offers.**

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel-

P: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**



Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *Matthew 10: 24-39* *Whom to Fear and Respect* *Lay Leader*



Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

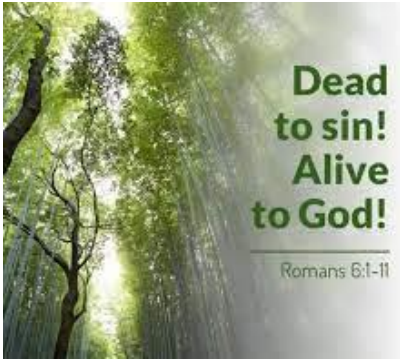
'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

Second Lesson *Romans 6: 1-11* *Dying and Rising with Christ* *Carol*



What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Sermon

Life After Death

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1-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.

2-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.

3-Come, Almighty to deliver,
 Let us all thy life receive;
 Suddenly return, and never,
 Nevermore 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.

4-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.

Litany of Faith

L: Christ has been raised! Death and sin have been defeated.

P: Our lives are redeemed. We are no longer bound to old patterns and habits.

L: We are set free. There is no need to allow our old, false selves to control us.

P: Transformation truly is possible. We can CHANGE and GROW!

L: We cannot transform ourselves, but with God, all things are possible.

P: God works in us making all things new and giving us strength to make new choices.

L: The Spirit is alive in us, empowering us to live the new life to which God calls us.

P: We open ourselves to the work of the Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

Generous and gracious Savior, we offer our gifts and our lives in response to the extravagant gift of your redeeming love. With joy and thanks we bring you this offering, grateful for the privilege of taking part in your salvation story. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 443

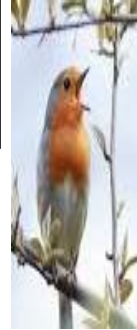
O Christ, the Great Foundation

1-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.

2-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.

3-Where tyrants' hold is the lightened, 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.

4-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.



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

Blessing

L: Show us, O God, what must die within us, that we, as individuals and as your church might thrive!

P: Create within us the desire to be fully alive for you.

L: Help us to claim your promise of resurrection life, awaiting us on the other side of death.

P: That we would willingly lose our lives for your sake, and enjoy the glorious life you desire for us.

L: 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.*