

**A true Christian  
DESIRES TO BE  
FREE FROM SIN,  
NOT TO SIN FREELY.**

**Romans 7:22-25**

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
July 9, 2023 10:00am Service**



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# The Worship of God

## July 9, 2023 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

**Welcome and Announcements**

Lay Leader

**Sharing Our Vision**

**Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...**



*Scientists tell us that dense fog covering seven city blocks to a depth of 100 feet is composed of less than one glass of water. That amount of water is divided into about 60 billion droplets. Yet when those minute particles settle over a city or the countryside, they have the power to blot out almost everything from human sight.*

*It's easy, even for people of faith, to live in a fog. How easy it is to permit a mere cupful of troubles to cloud our vision and dampen our spirit. We want to rise, take up our mat and walk, but we just can't picture what that new life is like.*

*Those who work in the field of addiction and recovery are very familiar with this sort of subconscious resistance. Whatever it is that addicts are trying to give up is easily named but hard to let go of. Relapse follows victory, which follows relapse. Along with the apostle Paul, such struggling people could well affirm, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."*

*The simple truth is, they're not yet helpless enough to be healed. They're not yet ready to give up their own human efforts to solve their problems. They're not ready to admit they have NOT the power within them to make it on their own. And that's where faith can step in if we invite it.*

## Preparing to Meet God

**Call to Worship**

**L:** O God, we gather this day to praise you and to hear your Word.

**P:** **We share with the apostle Paul the inner conflict between the Spirit and our human nature.**

**L:** We want to do what is right, but our efforts fall short too often.

**P:** **As we worship, unite us with Christ that our lives may be controlled by your Spirit.**

## Hymn # 293

*This Is My Father's World*

*1-This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.*

*2-This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

**Prayer of Confession**

***You know our frustration, O God. We want to be righteous but we are possessed by sin. Forgive us when our human nature makes it so difficult for us to follow Christ's example. Draw us closer to you each day that we might live in the Spirit as we serve you with our lives. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.***

**Assurance of Pardon**

**L:** Hear the Good News: You are granted grace, mercy, and peace through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**P:** ***Thanks be to God! Because of Christ we have been redeemed!***

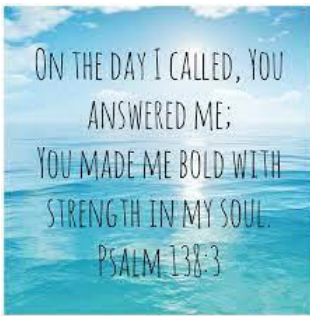
**L:** Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel-

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

Meeting God in the Word

**Children's Message**

**First Lesson**      *Psalm 138*      *Thanksgiving and Praise of God*      *Lay Leader*



*I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.*

*On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.*

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.*

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

**Second Lesson**      *Romans 7: 13-25*      *The Inner Conflict in Humans*      *Carol*



*Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.*

*For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

*So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.*

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

## Sermon

## Conversion



## Responding to the Word

## Hymn # 447

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

*1-Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home;  
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.*

*2-Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
For not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drum;  
With deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.*

*3-Lead on, O King eternal: We follow, not with fears;  
For gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears;  
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.*



## Affirmation of Faith

***We believe in the infinite worth of every human being. We believe that our worth is ultimately derived not by what others think of us, or even by what we think of ourselves, but by what God thinks of us. We affirm that God loves each of us with a richness and depth that is beyond our wildest imaginings.***

***We believe that every human being falters and fails at times and needs the forgiving love of God to keep going. We know that each of us becomes deadened to our world and our brothers and sisters, and so we need the enlivening power of God's Holy Spirit to be with us, making us alive inside.***

***Each of us faces the unknown we call death. And that is why God's promise of eternal life sealed in Jesus holds out so much hope to us. We know that, even though our lives may be filled with great trouble and sorrow, God never deserts us and never gives up on us. With this faith firm in our hearts, we can shout with the saints of all the ages – ALLELUIA! PRAISE THE LORD!***

## The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

#### The Celebration of Our Gifts

*Merciful God, we present our offerings to you mindful that all is yours and that you are not restricted by what we give. May your church always be a servant people, serving all in need and never devoted to power and wealth. Keep the example of Christ before us that we would serve as he did – putting others before himself. Amen.*

## Going Out to Serve

### Hymn # 391

### Take My Life

*1-Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*2-Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,  
Swift and beautiful for thee.*

*3-Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,  
Filled with messages from thee.*

*4-Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose,  
Every power as thou shalt choose.*



### Blessing

L: Set your minds on the things of the Spirit.

**P: We will fasten our imaginations to the will of the Lord.**

L: Bind your soul to the purpose of God.

**P: We will go forth to DO the will of God.**

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.*