



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
August 20, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

August 20, 2023 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



In Matthew 15, the Gospel writer tells a story about Jesus in foreign territory – the district of Tyre and Sidon. The residents of this territory were NOT Jewish, and thus were unclean by Jewish standards. Most Jews would have no dealings with such people, but Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman who seeks healing for her daughter.

This woman displays “mother’s love.” She puts the welfare of her child above her reputation as she, a woman, approaches a man (not appropriate in that culture) and as she, a non-Jew, knows she could be put down for approaching a Jew. Indeed, the disciples ask Jesus to

send her away. At first, Jesus responds in silence. And so, we wonder – Did he realize, at that point, that his ministry was NOT just to the Jews? We don’t know. After some harsh words from Jesus, she uses her wit to plead her cause. She shows great faith and Jesus does heal her daughter.

We are called by Jesus to minister to the needs of “the least of these.” In doing this, we may be criticized or lose our social standing. Are we willing to set aside our pride and reputation, and to use our wit as we stand with them? How great is our faith?

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: The invitation to worship has been extended. Our God has welcomed us into this place of worship, and we come to respond with praise and thanksgiving.

P: ***We come, one and all, to give praise and glory to our God.***

L: As creation proclaims the greatness of God with all its beauty, so we proclaim God with word and song.

P: ***We will shout and sing and dance and pray – all to glory of the One true God.***

A: ***We accept your invitation to come and gather as your people, O God. We are excited to be here with you and our community of faith. May this time together strengthen us for the living of faithful lives.***

Hymn # 442

The Church's One Foundation

*1-The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*2-Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*



*3-Though with a scornful wonder, this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*4-Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we confess that we are so much more at ease with people who look and speak and act like we do. We admit that we have a hard time getting out of our comfort zones when it comes to being more inclusive as your community of faith. Holy God, we come asking you to give us the courage to be a part of your ever-widening circle of family, reaching out and inviting all your children to join us. Give us the wisdom and compassion that we might try to understand and accept those who are different from us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayerAmen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Joyful is the person whose hope is in God.

P: ***The God who created us, loves and restores us, makes us whole to be the faithful people of God, if we allow the Spirit to do its transforming work within us.***

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 133

The Blessedness of Unity

Lay Leader



How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
-Psalm 133:1

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

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

Second Lesson

Matthew 15: 22-28

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

Carol

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.



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

Sermon

God's Nudges

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 439

In Christ There Is No East or West

*1-In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*2-In Christ shall true hearts everywhere, their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.*



*3-Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be,
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.*

*4-In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.*

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 the Holy Spirit to be with us, bringing us to life once again.

Each of us faces the unknown we call death. That is why God's promise of eternal life, sealed in Christ, 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! Thanks be to God!

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

God of love and mercy, use us and this offering to share your love with all those in need. May we be instruments of your love and healing. Amen.



Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 435

We All Are One in Mission

*1-We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.*

*2-We all are called for service to witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same.
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.*



*3-Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.*

Blessing

L: We came on the strength of God's promise of mercy.

P: *We have found a sense of love and acceptance as we worshipped as the Body of Christ.*

L: We leave on the strength of God's promise to be present with us always.

P: *And we go out to carry the presence of God to a world that is hurting.*

L: *And may the blessings*



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.*