

**GIVE YOUR
BODIES
TO → GOD**

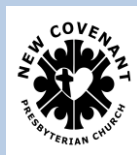
BECAUSE OF ALL HE HAS DONE
FOR YOU.

LET THEM BE A
**LIVING
HOLY**
SACRIFICE



ROMANS 12:1

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
August 27, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

August 27, 2023 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



The arithmetic of the Fourth Commandment offers an exquisite puzzle, if that interests you. How do we subtract from our use of time by adding something to it? If you grew up with fairly traditional religious practices, you probably remember the question that was posed just before Lent each year: “What are you giving up for Lent?” This was usually followed by giggles and wishful thinking about homework and chores going by the wayside for a season.

But the Fourth Commandment is no laughing matter; God is very clear about that. In Exodus 34: 21, the details are even more explicit: “Even in plowing time and in harvest time you shall rest.” So, in our religious version of the new math, we don’t “give up” something for Lent; instead, we add something.

What do we add? God tells us: We add Sabbath-keeping. We spend our Sabbath days dedicated to God. We finish our six days of whatever we do for work, and then we put aside those things on the Sabbath. We worship and we intentionally discover new ways of humbly acknowledging that we need to live as if we really believe that God is in charge of our culture, our work, and our lives. We relax, we rest, we renew ourselves and we enjoy one another. We ponder, we pray, we nurture ourselves and we refrain from working. Friends, this call from God is not ONLY for Lent, but for every season and forever. Let us commit ourselves to keeping the Sabbath holy and treat it as a gift from God who knows better than us what we truly need.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Come, walk in the way of the Lord with songs of gladness and joy for Jesus is the Christ – the Son of God, who loves us and saves us.

P: ***Christ is the way, the truth and the life, both now and forevermore.***

L: Jesus summons us to act in ways that please God and yet sometimes displease the crowd. He calls us to take up our cross and follow him.

P: ***The world may look upon us as peculiar people when we are faithful to God, but we will follow where Christ leads us.***

A: ***We give thanks that we can gather with brothers and sisters in faith – to worship the God we love and serve. And we pray that this service will give us strength to be even more faithful to our calling. Come, let us worship the Lord!***

Hymn # 476

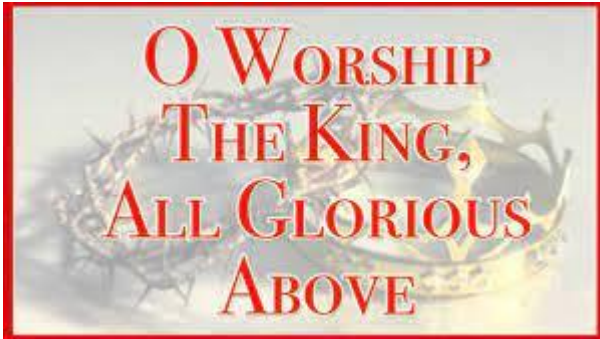
O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

*1-O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

*2-O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.*

*3-The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.*

*4-Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.*



Prayer of Confession

We thank you, O God, that the covenant relationship between us means that you are committed to us just as you call us to be committed to you. Part of that commitment is that we are to profess that you are the one true God, and we are to give you reverence, respect and obedience. We know there is a difference between right and wrong because you have provided us with commandments as to how we are to live. Sometimes, however, we would prefer to decide for ourselves what is right, and we do not follow the path you have set before us. Forgive us when we choose our own standards for faithful living, in denial of your authority to direct us. Help us to be faithful and responsible in living the covenant life to which we have been saved. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayerAmen.



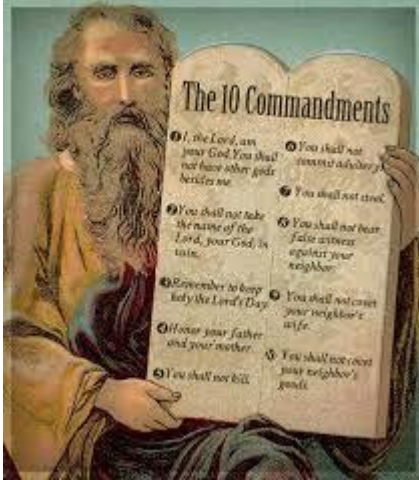
Assurance of Pardon

- L:** Hear the Good News: Christ died for our sins once and for all.
- P:** ***Jesus, who was just, suffered for the unjust to reconcile us to God.***
- 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 *Exodus 19: 5-6, 20: 1-11* *The Ten Commandments* *Lay Leader*



Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am

a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work - you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

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

Second Lesson

Romans 12: 1-2

New Life in Christ

Carol



I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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

Sermon

Peculiar Treasures

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 461

God Is Here!

*1-God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

*2-Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit; Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here is silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.*

*3-Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here, the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

*4-Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

Litany of Faith

L: Truly, God's judgments are unsearchable, and God's ways are inscrutable, and yet, often we do not understand God's way. The Lord said to Abram, "Go to the land that I will show you, and I will bless you." Abram did not understand but he obeyed.

P: *And the Lord blessed Abram.*

L: Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will send you to Pharaoh, and I will be with you."

P: *And the Lord blessed Moses.*

L: Then the Lord said to Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you."

P: *And the Lord blessed Joshua.*

L: The Lord said to the descendants of Jacob and Rachel, "Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my peculiar treasure among all the peoples."

P: *And the Lord blessed the descendants of Jacob and Rachel.*

L: But their descendants did not obey the voice of the Lord, and they went into exile.

P: Yet the Lord was with them in their captivity.

L: And they escaped from Babylon as a bird from the snare of fowlers.

P: As God had mercy upon the captives, God will have mercy also on us.

A: And just as people have been called throughout time to spend their lives in worship of God, we are called to do the same. And when we are faithful to God's purpose for us, we will be blessed as well.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

Holy God, we are unworthy to stand before you except by the grace of our baptism. Sanctify our gifts by the Spirit that they may be worthy of your use in the proclamation of the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 235

With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim!

Sung to the tune of *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee #357*

1-With joy I heard my friends exclaim,
"Come, let us in God's temple meet."
Within thy gates, O Zion blest,
Shall ever stand our willing feet.

3-They come to learn the will of God,
To pay their vows, God's grace to own,
For there is judgment's royal seat,
Messiah's sure and lasting throne.

2-How beautiful doth Zion stand,
A city built compact and fair;
The people of the Lord unite
With joy and praise to worship

4-For Zion's peace let prayer be made;
May all that love thee prosper well!
Within thy walls let peace abide,
And gladness with thy children dwell.



5-For love of friends and kindred dear,
My heart's desire is Zion's peace,
And for the house of God, the Lord,
My loving care shall never cease.

Blessing

L: Go forth among your neighbors as ambassadors of the Lord.

P: *We will go with our eyes enlightened with God's commandments and our minds quickened with God's testimonies.*

L: Go forth with your hearts rejoicing in God's Law and your souls aflame with God's love.

P: *May all that see us know that we belong to God and may we share with them how they might have the same abundant life.*

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.*