

KEEPING EASTER SUNDAY

*Joy alive on Monday*



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
April 11, 2021 10:00am Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE  
(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)**

# The Worship of God

## The First Sunday after Easter

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Brian Lindgren

### Preparing to Meet God

#### Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

*"But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (John 20:11-13)*



*That was the scene just moments before Mary became the first witness to the greatest miracle – ever take place – the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus from dead. Try to imagine the scene – she is standing outside the tomb and sees the stone has been rolled away (a feat that no human could have done alone). She's weeping. She's sobbing. Her emotions are going from bad to worse – not only is Jesus dead, but they've gotten rid of his Body too, which is something very disgraceful in the ancient Hebrew culture.*

*A bad day just became worse and you can imagine her feeling standing inside that tomb – that empty tomb. Crushed. Depressed. Defeated. Hopeless. The tomb was the worst place ever. But then it all changed. It all changed when she saw Jesus. He appeared to her and called her by name, "Mary." She recognized Him immediately and that was it. That changed everything. In that moment, defeat turned to victory. Depression turned to joy. Hopelessness turned to hope...real hope...the kind that cannot be taken away, even by death itself! What a turning point. And where did it all take place? **IN AN EMPTY TOMB!***

#### Call to Worship

- L: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, we have been born anew into a living hope; we have been given an inheritance that will never pass away!
- A: ***Blessing and glory and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.***

#### \*Hymn of Praise

*Awesome God*

#### Prayer of Confession

***Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.***

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**L:** Hear the Good News: Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!" We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. You are forgiven; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Walk forward on this journey of faith.

**A:** *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. AMEN!*

## Meeting God in the Word

**Children's Message****Prayer for Illumination****First Lesson**

1 John 1:1-2:2

*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**Second Lesson**

John 20:19-31

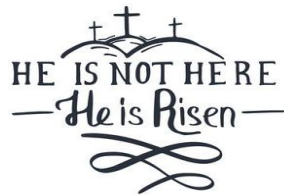
*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

**Sermon***He is Risen, So Now What?!*

Elder, Donna Casey

Responding to the Word**\*Hymn***Because He Lives***\*Affirmation of Faith***The Apostles' Creed***Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer****Cares Chorus:**

*I cast all my cares upon you.  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime I don't know what to do,  
I cast all my cares upon you.*

**The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts****The Invitation**

*You are invited to place your offering in the basket in the back of the sanctuary.*

**Hymn of Dedication:***How Great Thou Art***Prayer of Dedication**Going Out to Serve God**\* Hymn***Lord of the Dance*

**\* Blessing**

As you go from here, know that God is always with you. Do not be shaken, for he is right beside you. He will show you the way that leads to life! And may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

**\*Response**

*He Is Lord  
He is Lord, He is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Commented [CCF1]: