

The voice of the LORD

echoes over the oceans

The glorious LORD God

thunders

above the roar
of the raging sea

Psalm 29:3

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
January 8, 2023 10:00am Service



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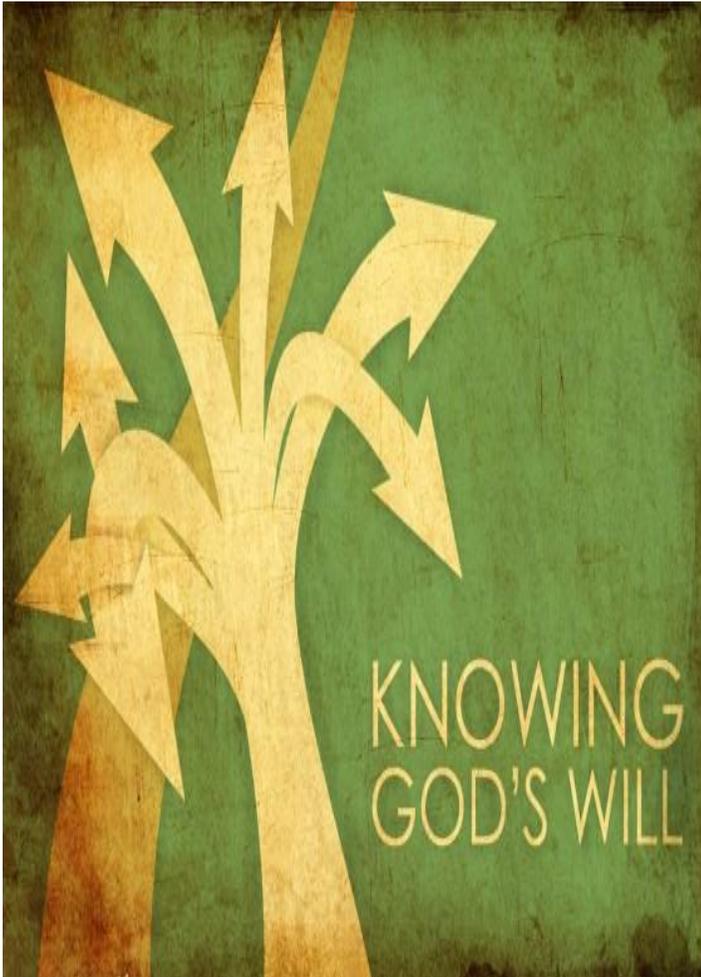
The Worship of God

January 8, 2022 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



The great lesson from the true mystics is that the Sacred is in the ordinary – that it is to be found in one's daily life, in one's neighbors, friends, family and in one's backyard. To be looking elsewhere for miracles is to me a sure sign of ignorance and a lack of discernment. (Abraham Maslow)

A problem of discernment from the Eastern Orthodox tradition: There was a monk who rode an ox into town. The people noticed that he was looking all around, as though he were seeking something. They asked him what he was looking for and he said, "I'm looking for an ox" and the townspeople laughed at this foolish man. He went into two other neighborhoods and people in each place asked him the same question, and again he answered, "I'm looking for an ox." Finally, someone said to him, "This is ridiculous because you are a man riding an ox and yet you are looking for an ox." The monk answered, "So it is with you looking for God." This story sounds quite similar to the one about a man looking for a pair of eyeglasses which he, in fact, was wearing.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Let the people say –

P: ***Glory to God!***

L: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord with the splendor of his holiness. Let the people say –

P: ***Glory to God!***

L: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. Let the people say –

P: ***Glory to God!***

L: The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace. Let the people say –

P: All glory and praise to you, Lord God!

Hymn # 469

Morning Has Broken

1-Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

2-Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3-Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreations of the new day!



Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful in our relationship with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods such as money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interests instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our relationship with you and one another. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

- Based on Romans 8: 1

L: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death:

P: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.

L: To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say in the name of Jesus Christ: Your sins are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God!

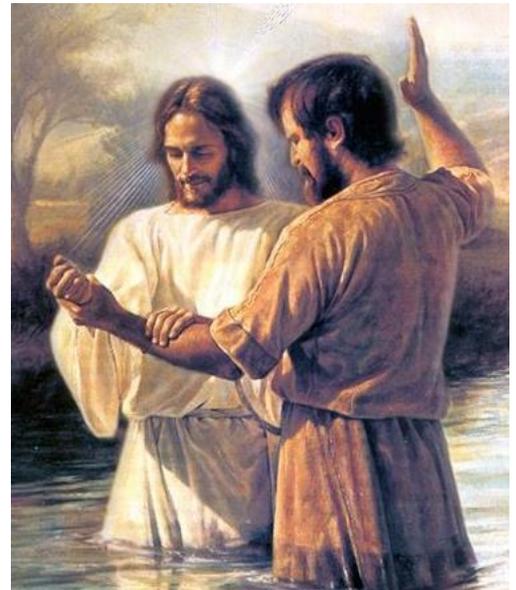
Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Matthew 3: 13-17

The Baptism of Jesus
Lay Leader

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'



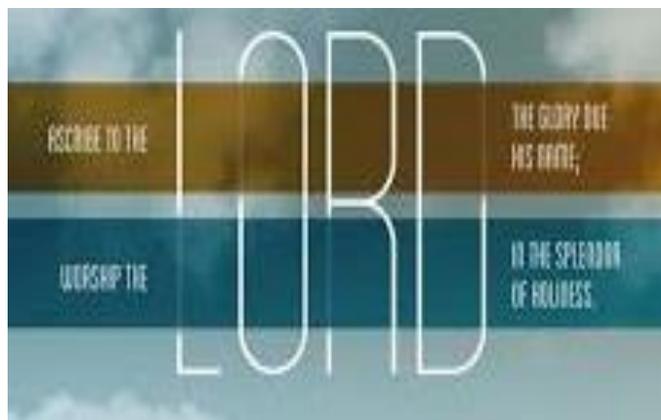
L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Psalm 29

The Voice of God in a Great Storm

Carol



Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

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

Sermon

The Voice of God

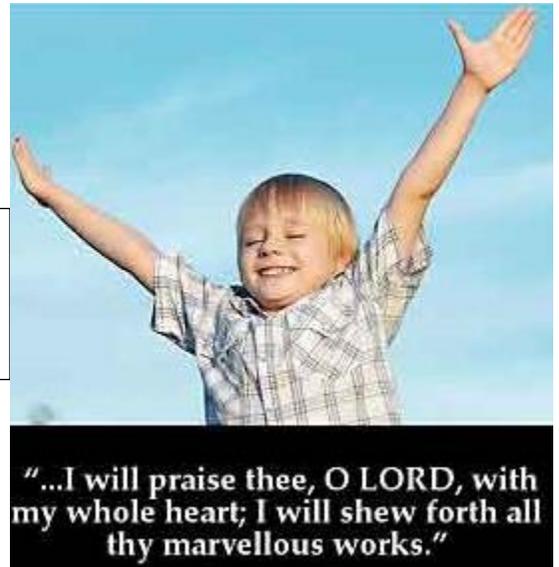
Responding to the Word

1-Come sing to God, O living saints; sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent; God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night with signs of deepest pain,
Yet joy comes with the morning sun, a peace that is not vain.

2-In my success I felt secure; how good you've been to me.
I said that this is my own work, ascribing all to me.
But when you turned aside your face, my life was filled with fears.
I begged for help; to you I cried with loud and bitter tears.

3-What good is gained by my disgrace, what profit in defeat?
My grave cannot confess your name, nor praise for you repeat.
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry; be merciful to me.
Accept my longing heart's request and from death set me free.

4-You change my grief to joy-filled dance; my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing; my voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore. My life shall sing your praise.



"...I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works."

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God, who is Creator, Maker of all we see and all we don't see; who is Ruler of the universe and the Source of all creation.

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ – God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human. He is one with the Creator, the Word made flesh, our Messiah and Savior of all creation.

We believe in one God, who is the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God moving among us. The Spirit is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide and Mentor of all creation.

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

God has provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

Prayer of Dedication: Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for all the ways you touch our lives and provide for our needs. Guide and direct our thoughts and actions that all we do and say would be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 262

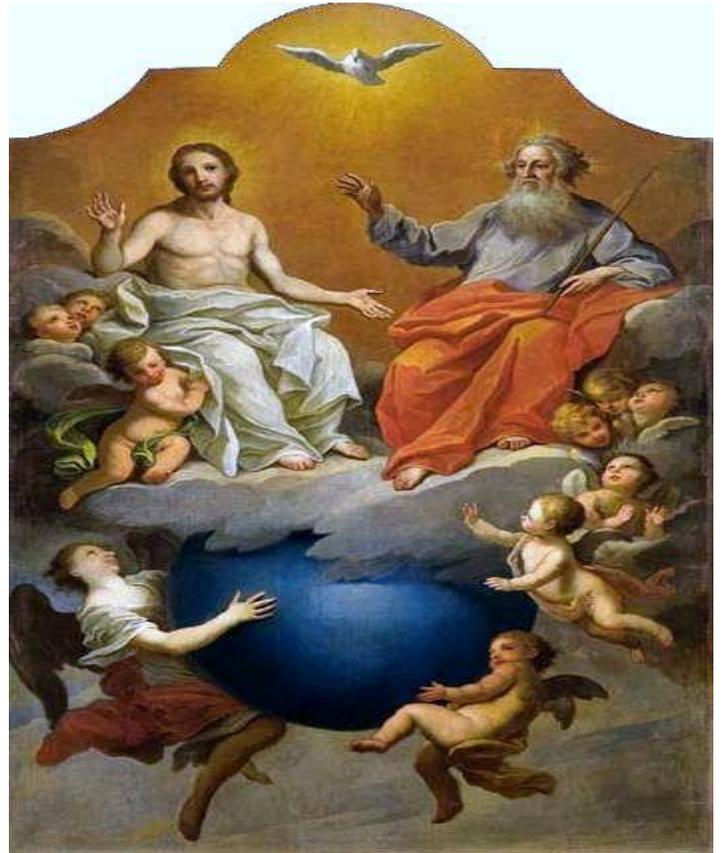
God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

1-God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2-Thy love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay.
Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

3-From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever-sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4-Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.



Blessing

L: May the light always shine in your darkness.

P: *May our ears always hear the Word.*

L: May grace upon grace be yours.

P: *May the glory of the Father's only Son be known to you now and forever.*

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.*