

*Oh give thanks to the*  
**LORD,**  
*for he is good;*  
*for his steadfast*  
**LOVE**  
*endures forever!*

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

July 24, 2022

10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE

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# The Worship of God

## July 31, 2022 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Lay Leader: Alice M.*

**Sharing Our Vision**

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



*Our lesson today is laden with parent-child imagery. Israel is seen as if he was a son with his parent teaching him to walk. The warmth of emotion of God to Israel in God's holy arms is unsurpassed elsewhere in scripture. The depiction of God's holding Israel in his divine arms is matchless, and yet the tenderness God feels for Israel is met*

*with idolatry and apostasy. Only at the end of our lesson does the prophet foresee repentance and a return to God.*

*Israel is reminded of God's compassion and love even though the people did not respond with love and obedience. And even in God's love and perfection, ingratitude hurts a divine heart. Even so, God spares them with undeserved love and forgiveness because mercy, like justice, is part of God's DNA. Bottom line: While Israel's sin would be punished, God's covenant with them, and us, continues because of God's parent-like love for his child.*

## Preparing to Meet God

**Call to Worship**

**L:** Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord!

**P:** ***For God has dealt mercifully with us.***

**L:** Even when we turned our backs on God,

**P:** ***God forgave us and restored us to life.***

**L:** Rejoice in God's abundant love,

**P:** ***We will continually praise God who heals and loves us!***

**Hymn # 376**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1-Love divine, all loves excelling,  
 Joy of heaven, to earth come down.  
 Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
 All thy faithful mercies crown!  
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
 Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
 Visit us with thy salvation,  
 Enter every trembling heart.

3-Come, Almighty to deliver,  
 Let us all thy life receive;  
 Suddenly return, and never,  
 Nevermore thy temples leave.  
 Thee we would be always blessing,  
 Serve thee as thy host above;  
 Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
 Glory in thy perfect love.

2-Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
 Into every troubled breast!  
 Let us all in thee inherit,  
 Let us find the promised rest;  
 Take away the love of sinning,  
 Alpha and Omega be;  
 End of faith, as its beginning,  
 Set our hearts at liberty.

4-Finish, then, thy new creation;  
 Pure and spotless let us be;  
 Let us see thy great salvation  
 Perfectly restored in thee;  
 Changed from glory into glory,  
 Till in heaven we take our place.  
 Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
 Lost in wonder, love and praise.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Lay Leader*

***Merciful God, we live in a society that focuses on gathering things. We collect, store, gather items, gadgets, even people. We focus our energies on our collections, providing adequate room for them, and yet we bar the door to the needs of others - of those who have little or nothing, of those for whom life has been a constant struggle. We are sorry for the ways in which we have failed you, loving God. Forgive us and turn us around to look at the ways in which our wealth, both of substance and spirit, can be used for healing and hope. Enable us to be in ministry to those in need and to care for this world. And now, O God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness***



.....**Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

- L: Children of God, blessings have been poured out upon you so that you may use them to help others.
- P: God walks with us to guide our steps,**
- L: That you might reach out in compassion, mercy and justice to all in need.

**A:** *Because of God's great love and mercy, we are assured that we are forgiven, no matter how we have sinned, if we only ask for this precious gift.*

**L:** Thanks be to our God for his great love!

**P:** *Alleluia, Amen!*

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message

**First Lesson** *Luke 12: 13-21*

*The Parable of the Rich Fool*

*Lay Leader*



Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do

*this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."* But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

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

### Special Music

**Second Lesson** Hosea 11: 1-11*God's Compassion Despite Israel's Ingratitude*

*When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.*



*They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all.*

*How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.*

*They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.*

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

**Sermon****Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn # 394**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*



**Refrain:**

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole  
There is balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul..***

*1-Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again.*

**R**

*2-Don't ever feel discouraged,  
For Jesus is your friend,  
And if you lack for knowledge,  
He'll not refuse to lend.*

**R**

*3-If you cannot preach like Peter,  
If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say "He died for all."*

**R****\*An Affirmation of Salvation**

***We believe in a God of free will, who called us into being, created us a little lower than the angels, and gave us freedom to accept or reject the love that is offered.***

***We believe in a God of salvation who came to us in Christ Jesus, the unique Son of God. He was born as a babe in Bethlehem. In his youth, he was a carpenter and stone mason in Nazareth. As an adult, he taught and healed, preached and prayed, and was a friend to the friendless.***

***As a young man, he was killed, and he died on a cross like any common criminal. In his death, he paid the penalty of sin for all people. The third day after his burial he arose victorious over sin and death. And now he intercedes before the Father in glory for all who call on his name.***

***We hold that the meaning of life is found in a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, and we submit to his rule of love in our hearts now and forever.***

**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 case all my cares upon you.*

**The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts**

*Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, sometimes we find it hard to believe that you can love and forgive us without end no matter what we do to displease you. Help us to take this lesson to heart and to strive to become more loving to you and our neighbors. In your name we pray. Amen.*

# Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 384

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1-O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

2-O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

3-O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

4-O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.



## Blessing

L: Place your life in the hands of God.

**P: We will go in peace, giving thanks for our blessings.**

L: Never doubt that the peace of God goes with you at all times and places.  
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.*