



New Covenant Presbyterian Church

July 3, 2022

10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE

(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

July 3, 2022 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader:

Sharing Our Vision

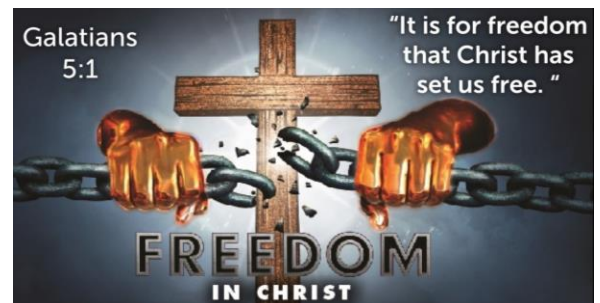
Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



What is it that makes a person free? It certainly is a good question on which to ponder on this Fourth of July weekend. How many of us truly know the meaning of this patriotic holiday? What are we commemorating anyway? Well, you're in good company if you're a little rusty on your sixth-grade civics lesson. A recent Gallup poll revealed that 1 out of every 4 Americans doesn't know that July 4th commemorates the signing of the

Declaration of Independence. And even more amazing is that the same number can't tell you which country from which we declared our independence.

This weekend we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as American citizens. But let's not forget the freedom we have in Christ as well. St. Paul writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." May each of us appreciate the precious gift of freedom with which we have been blessed.



Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: We have come here to sing of God's awesome love and of the freedom we have in Christ.
- P: We have come as a people of faith to offer praise and thanks to God, the Lord of life.**
- L: Fill our hearts now, great God, with the fruits of your wondrous Spirit.
- P: May we be filled with love, joy and peace. May we live in kindness, goodness, and gentleness with all living creatures.**
- A: And may we give thanks for the freedom we have to choose to worship and serve our God!**

Hymn # 564O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

1-O beautiful for spacious skies,
 For amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties
 Above the fruited plain!
 America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!

2-O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
 Whose stern, impassioned stress
 A thoroughfare for freedom beat
 Across the wilderness!
 America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
 Confirm thy soul in self control,
 Thy liberty in law!

3-O beautiful for heroes proved
 In liberating strife,
 Who more than self their country loved,
 And mercy more than life!
 America! America! May God thy gold refine
 Till all success be nobleness
 And every gain divine!

4-O beautiful for patriot dream
 That sees beyond the years
 Thine alabaster cities gleam,
 Undimmed by human tears!
 America! America! God shed his grace on thee
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!

Prayer of Confession*Lay Leader*

You know, O God, how pleased we can be with ourselves and how little we put you and your purposes above our own. We confess that we are too ready to think judgmentally of others and to throw up barriers between us. Forgive us of our pride that has so little reason, and our concern for prestige that has so little importance. Also, please forgive us for thinking so much of ourselves that other people's needs and sorrows hardly affect us. Make us less sure of our own goodness, and more sure of your forgiveness and love. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

- L:** Hear the Good News: For freedom Christ has set you free.
P: *Through the Spirit, by faith, we wait for the hope of righteousness.*
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 77: 1-2, 11-20* *God's Mighty Deeds Recalled* Lay Leader



I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me. In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples. With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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

Special Music

America the Beautiful

Bell Choir

Second Lesson *Galatians 5: 1, 13-25* *The Nature of Christian Freedom* Carol

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.



By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

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

Sermon

Unlimited Freedom

Responding to the Word

***Hymn # 326**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

1-Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.

2-Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
All, all thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

3-Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

4-Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

***Affirmation of Faith on the Fruits of the Spirit**

Love is the Christ-like reaction to people's malice.

Joy is the Christ-like reaction to troubling circumstances.

Peace is the Christ-like reaction to troubles, threats, and invitations to anxiety.

Patience is the Christ-like reaction to all that is maddening.

Kindness is the Christ-like reaction to all that are unkind.

Goodness is the Christ-like reaction to people with un-Christ-like behavior.

Faithfulness and **Gentleness** are the Christ-like reactions to lies and anger.

Self-control is the Christ-like reaction to every situation that goads you to lose your cool and strike out at others.

May God enlighten and strengthen us to be drawn towards the fruits of the Spirit that we might be more like Christ.

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: These gifts are meaningless, good Lord, if your name is on our lips but not in our hearts. Let your Spirit complete the good work begin in us that we may worthily bear the name of Christ. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation and Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

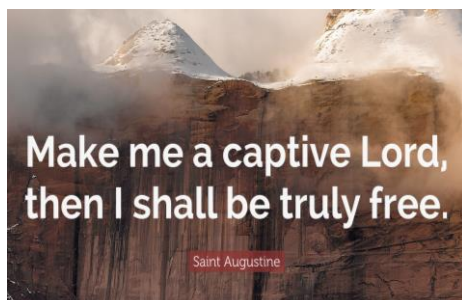


Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 378

Make Me a Captive Lord

Tune: #441, *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*



*1-Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my sword,
And I shall conqueror be.*

*2-I sink in life's alarms
When by myself I stand;
Imprison me within thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand.*

*3-My heart is weak and poor
Until it master find;
It has no spring of action sure.
It varies with the wind.*

*4-It cannot freely move
Till thou hast wrought its chain;
Enslave it with thy matchless love,
And deathless it shall reign.*

Blessing

L: May we leave this place today setting our faces steadfastly toward the world.

P: *May we greet the call of Christ not with excuses but with enthusiasm,*

L: That our faithfulness might testify to the faithfulness of God.

L: And now may the blessings of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

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.*