

**BE VERY CAREFUL,**  
THEN, HOW YOU LIVE —

*not as* † *but as*

**UNWISE WISE,**

**MAKING** *the most* **OF EVERY**  **OPPORTUNITY,**

**BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL.**

**THEREFORE DO NOT BE FOOLISH.** **BUT UNDERSTAND** *what the*

**LORD'S**

*will is.* **EPHESIANS 5:15-17**

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

March 19, 2023

10:00am Service



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# The Worship of God

March 19, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Lent

## Welcome and Announcements

## Sharing Our Vision

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



*Each of us has a choice, just as Jesus did. God's Spirit filled Jesus and the Spirit filled his people. The Spirit brings the affirmation that God loves each of us. We are precious in God's sight. We have value simply because we belong to God. Even when we feel it least, God loves us and sees us through life's challenges.*

*The Spirit frees us to LOVE. Filled with the Spirit, Jesus brought forgiveness to people in captivity, and he healed people with illnesses. He restored physical sight for some, and provided others with a new vision of life. Jesus welcomed outcasts. In many different ways, he expressed his love for God and others.*

*Beloved by God, filled with the Spirit, the followers of Jesus are called to PRAY - SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - FEED THE HUNGRY - WITNESS FOR PEACE - AND WORK FOR JUSTICE. In whatever way is possible, we are called to nurture relationships, and break down walls which exclude people.*

*None of us can do everything, but filled with the Spirit, we each CAN DO SOMETHING. God, who loves us, will take what we do and bless us, and use our actions in ways we cannot imagine.*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

**L:** Lord of life, you are the living bread.

**P:** *Give us your love and Spirit that we might be your faithful people.*

**L:** Lord of life, you truly are the LIVING bread.

**P:** *May we feel your nourishing presence which offers us life in abundance.*

**A:** *Lord of life, we come today to offer you our praise and thanksgiving for all that you are and all that you do for us. Come and dwell among us during this hour.*

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 recreation of the new day!



**Prayer of Confession**



***We want to live as disciples of Christ, O God, but our human nature makes it difficult to follow where you lead. Forgive us when we go along with the world's example, instead of being an example to the world. Let our thoughts, speech, and behavior contribute to the spiritual nurture of your people. 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:** Jesus said, "I came that you might have life and have it abundantly."

**P:** ***All we need do is accept Christ as Lord and live in the forgiveness he provides.***

**L:** We believe and choose to live as forgiven people who give thanks!

**P:** ***Thanks be to God, for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

**Children's Message**

**Prayer for Illumination**



*Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.*

*Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The*

*works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.*

*He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.*

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

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5: 15-20

Wisdom in God's Sight

Carol

*Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*



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

## Sermon

The Time of Your Life

## Responding to the Word

## Hymn # 369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*1-I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*2-I'm gonna work so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*3-I'm gonna pray so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*4-I'm gonna sing so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

### \*Litany of Faith

- Based on Psalm 100

L: We have gathered in the name of the Lord. What is your response?

**P: *We will make a joyful noise to the Lord, serving the Lord with gladness, and coming into his presence with singing!***

L: Why do you take this time for the Lord?

**P: *God said, "Know that the Lord is God." It is he that has made us; we did not. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."***

L: How will you worship the Lord?

**P: *We will enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. We will give thanks to him, and bless his name.***

L: What is the basis for this outpouring of praise?

**A: *The Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations.***



### 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 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, who are we that you care so much for us? And yet, there is no need to ask that question because you have cared for us since the beginning of time. May our lives and our offerings show how much we love you and want to serve you and your church. Amen.

# Going Out to Serve

## \*Hymn # 391

## Take My Life

1-Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2-Take my hands, and let them move,  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, let them be,  
Swift and beautiful for thee.  
Swift and beautiful for thee.

3-Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee.  
Filled with messages from thee.

4-Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose,  
Every power as thou shalt choose.



## \*Blessing

- L: Christ said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven, and the One who eats this bread will live forever."
- P: We know that we will live because of our Lord.**
- L: So, go out from this place and live in God's abundance and you will never go wanting. And may the love, grace and fellowship of God the 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.*