

to this you were called, because Christ suffered for you,
leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 peter 2:21 / photo: geoff belford / edenderryce.org

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
May 7, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

May 7, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...

God Uses Our Suffering

Life is full of trouble. But in the hands of a loving God, our suffering is being used for eternal purposes.

It is commendable to bear up under unjust suffering because of our trust in God. The experience of suffering unjustly is a part of our calling in Christ, for he suffered on our behalf even though he committed no sin. Jesus did not retaliate or threaten those who afflicted him. Instead, he entrusted himself to his Father. As a result, we are set free from our sins.

Jesus bore our sins on his body when he hung on the cross. He died to set us free from sin and death. Everyone who receives this gift and dies to their sins can now be raised to new life. When we died to ourselves and receive new life in Christ, then we were dead to sin and alive to righteousness. We were born again to a new life in the grace of Christ.

Now that we live in Christ we are healed by his wounds. In this life healing is only partial, in the same way that our freedom from sin is not yet complete. And so we pray and trust in our Heavenly Father.

Prayer: Thank you Lord Jesus for dying for me. Thank you for taking my sin and my death on your body and promising eternal life with you. Help me to live as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Acknowledge that the Lord is God:

P: *He made us,*

L: And we are his, his own people,

P: *The flock which he shepherds.*

A: *Let us glorify him this morning and forever!*

Hymn # 122

Thine Is the Glory

*1-Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away.
Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay. R*

Refrain:

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

*2-Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting. R*



3-No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
 Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife.
 Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
 Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **R**

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we come before you in penitence this morning for we have not brought glory to your name. We have expressed gratitude with our lips and perhaps sincerely with our hearts, but our actions have not followed our words. We have fallen far short of all we could have done and should have done to witness to your saving grace. We have celebrated your Son's Resurrection but acted as if he were still in the grave. We have accepted your mercy and your grace but have failed to extend them to others. We have continued to hold grudges, to gossip, to ignore, and yes even to hate those whom you love. We confess in unison and now take this time to confess in silence our particular failings.....Heavenly Father, forgive us we pray. Anoint us anew with your Holy Spirit and resurrect our souls. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

- L: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
- P: **He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.**
- L: I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
- P: **Amen.**

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson *Acts 2: 42-47* *Life Among the Early Church* *Lay Leader*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

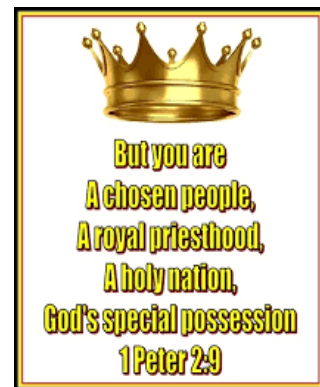
L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading *I Peter 2: 19-25* *Enduring Suffering* *John*

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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



Sermon

Suffering Servants

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 367

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

*1-Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. **R***

*4-Loving puts us on our knees,
Serving as though we are slaves,
This is the way we should live with you. **R***

*2-Neighbors are rich and poor,
Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. **R***

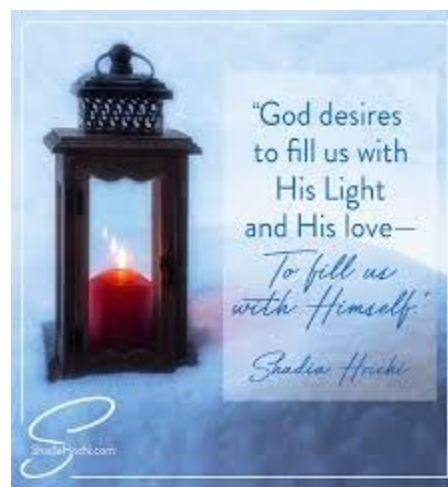
*5-Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. **R***

*3-These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and you. **R***

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Celebration of Our Gifts

- Call for the Offering
- Prayer of Dedication: In glad thanksgiving for your goodness, we offer you our gifts; and pray for the power to offer and present our very selves to you, a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for your acceptance, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Includes the Prayers of the People, the Lord's Prayer, and the Prayer of Consecration)



Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we thank you for the love which brings us, as food from heaven, the life of your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all his faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of his Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come into the glory of your eternal kingdom; through your Son our Lord. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 113

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

*1-"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!
All creation, join to say; Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*

*2-Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*3-Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

*4-Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given; Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!*



Blessing

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.*