



Ezekiel 34:15-16 JB

I will pasture my sheep, I will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

November 20, 2022

10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE

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# The Worship of God

## November 20, 2022 Christ the King Sunday

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Lay Leader: Georgia MacKay*

**Sharing Our Vision**

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



Gratitude  
is the best  
Attitude

We hear it all the time: the importance of *being thankful or showing gratitude*. For some people, these words elicit an eye roll or a blank stare, at best. Sure, we know that gratitude is important in an abstract sort of way, but it can be hard to take seriously when our primary mode of interaction with the concept is the #ThankfulThursday hashtag on social media.

*In many ways, as a society, we've lost touch with the true meaning of gratitude. And that's understandable because true gratitude requires reflection and stillness, two things that can be difficult in our busy, overstimulated everyday lives. As a result, we're also missing out on the benefits of gratitude, which may be greater than many people realize. As it turns out, the effects of gratitude can be important for our overall well-being for several reasons, such as improved mental and physical health, stronger social bonds and resilience. All very significant improvements in our life, so let's take developing an attitude of gratitude more seriously.*

## Preparing to Meet God

**Call to Worship**

- L: Be glad and rejoice, for God has done great things. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
- P: *We gather in gladness to worship God. We enter God's presence with joy.***
- L: The first fruits of our labor belong to God. We rejoice in the privilege to share God's bounty.
- P: *God has made us, and we belong to God.***
- L: So let God reign in all our thoughts and relationships.

**P: We thank God for steadfast love which sustains us. We praise God for faithfulness to all generations.**

**A: Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn # 554**

*Let All Things Now Living*

*1-Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving  
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,  
As forward we travel from light into Light.*



*2-By law God enforces the stars in their courses,  
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing  
With glad adoration a song let us raise:  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

***You know the truth about us, O God, better than we outwardly admit. We have gathered the bounty of the earth to fill our barns and bank accounts as we try to get ahead. But we struggle with our greed. We have not paused to listen to one another or to walk with Jesus among the least of your children. We turn away from the guiding of the Holy Spirit to close ourselves from the needs of the world. Turn us around, we pray, that we might receive forgiveness and enter into a time of true thanksgiving. 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: God does not put us to shame but deals wondrously with us, restoring us and blessing us with peace.

**P: *God desires our salvation - our healing - our response in love.***

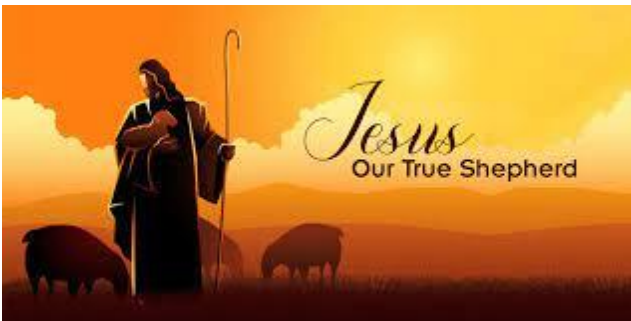
L: Therefore, we are not to worry. Beloved, believe and live the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**P: *Thanks be to God.***

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message

**First Lesson** Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24    *God, the True Shepherd*    Lay Leader



*For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them*

*from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.*

*Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.*

*I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.*

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

**Second Lesson**    *Matthew 25: 31-46*    *The Judgement of the Nations*    **Jim Mehler**  
*Pulpit Supply*



*‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand,*

*“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”*

*Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”*

*Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’*

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

**Sermon**

*Thanks Giving*



## Responding to the Word

### \*Hymn #555

### *Now Thank We All Our God*

1-Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.



2-O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

3-All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

### \*Litany of Faith *Adapted from a Litany of Thanksgiving, The Book of Common Worship*

L: Come let us praise God joyfully.

**P: *Let us come to God with thanksgiving.***

L: For the good world. For things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors.

**Refrain: *Thank You God.***

L: *For human life. For common hopes and hardships shared.*

**Refrain: *Thank You God.***

L: *For work to do and strength to work.*

**Refrain: *Thank You God.***

L: *For family. For living together; for family amusements and family pleasures.*

**Refrain: *Thank You God.***

L: *For children and their energy and curiosity. For the young and their high hopes. For growing up and growing old and wisdom which comes with maturity.*

**Refrain: *Thank You God.***

**L:** *For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing; for preserving us in temptation and danger.*

**Refrain:** **Thank You God.**

**L:** *For the church, for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament, for our life together in the Lord.*

**Refrain:** **Thank You God.**

**L:** *For your Holy Spirit who guides our steps and who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship.*

**Refrain:** **Thank You God.**

**L:** *Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; for the joy of serving him.*

**P:** **We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.**

## 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: We rejoice in this opportunity to thank you, Gracious God, with a portion of the bounty you provide for our use. As we share our material in the work of your church, we are on a spiritual quest to discern your will for us and our world. Thank you for guiding us beyond food that perishes to feed on the true bread of life. Amen.*

## Going Out to Serve

### \*Hymn # 560

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*  
Sung to O Jesus, I Have Promised #389

*1-We plow the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand;  
God sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.*

*2-You only are the Maker  
Of all things near and far;  
You paint the wayside flower,  
You light the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey you,  
By you the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, your children,  
You give our daily bread.*

*3-We thank you, then, Creator,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food;  
Accept the gifts we offer,  
For all your love imparts  
And what you most would welcome,  
Our humble, thankful hearts.*



### **\*Blessing**

L: Let thanksgiving continue every day we live. Find joy in the wonder of God's generosity. Be glad and rejoice in God as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Bless the world with acts of love.

Go now in the love of God, the peace of Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **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.*

