



New Covenant Presbyterian Church

September 18, 2022

10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE

(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)

# The Worship of God

September 18, 2022      Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Welcome and Announcements

*Lay Leader:*

## Sharing Our Vision

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



*Does God care when we are sick? That is the topic for today. Do you believe God DID and STILL DOES heal people? Does prayer make a difference? These are important questions for us to consider if we say “we believe” in God and God’s power. I do not believe that God ever causes illness, but I am certain that God works through pain and tragedy*

*to bring good things to the people and things in creation.*

*Our God is a compassionate and merciful God. Contrary to what some people think, God takes no delight in seeing sickness and pain in creation. God desires for us all to experience joy and good health, and that is why God is always ready to heal us, if not physically, at least emotionally and spiritually. The prophet Jeremiah says, “For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, says the Lord...” We are called to believe that God knows best and provides healing when it is God’s will. God has the power to bring physical, mental and spiritual healing, and for that wondrous gift, we give thanks.*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

**L:** God has given us the Holy Spirit to be with us forever, just as Jesus promised.

**P:** ***The Spirit is our Comforter and Counselor, helping us when we are lonely, discouraged or afraid.***

**L:** Our God is the Great Physician, knowing our needs and healing us in ways we never knew were possible.

**P:** ***We come to worship the one true God who loves and cares for us like no other.***

**\*Hymn # 139***Come, Thou Almighty King*

1-Come, thou Almighty King,  
 Help us thy name to sing,  
 Help us to praise:  
 Father, all glorious,  
 O'er all victorious,  
 Come and reign over us,  
 Ancient of Days.

3-Come, Holy Comforter,  
 Thy sacred witness bear  
 In this glad hour:  
 Thou who almighty art,  
 Now rule in every heart,  
 And ne'er from us depart,  
 Spirit of power.

2-Come, thou Incarnate Word,  
 Gird on thy mighty sword,  
 Our prayer attend:  
 Come, and thy people bless,  
 And give thy Word success;  
 Spirit of holiness,  
 On us descend.

4-To thee, great One in Three,  
 The highest praises be,  
 Hence evermore!  
 Thy sovereign majesty  
 May we in glory see,  
 And to eternity  
 Love and adore.

**\*Litany of Confession*****DO NOT PRINT, TO BE SAID BY THE L. LEADER***

***We come before you, O God, in the silence of this moment. We come to think honestly about the things we have done or not done during the past week that have displeased you.***

***We remember with regret when, instead of listening with our hearts, we listened only with our minds, as we tried to think of a snappy reply when what was needed was concern and honest and open acceptance and love. Help us to listen to others as you listen to us.***

***We recall with remorse when a child, grandchild or neighbor asked us to pause and spend a few moments with them, and we said we were too busy to join him or her. Help us to remember that all too soon, our children may not ask as they will be caught up in their own lives and our neighbors may have moved on.***

***We remember all too clearly the times we replied in anger rather than understanding, and with impatience rather than tolerance. Help us to remember the example of those who are more tolerant of us than we may deserve.***

***We recall with embarrassment the times when we failed to tell the whole truth. Help us to remember our own pain when we endured the repercussions from falsehoods told about us.***



***We regret the occasions when our righteous, judgmental selves caused the unhappiness or pain of another. Help us to remember that you alone are equipped to judge and help us to offer the salve of forgiveness to those in need.***

***We are truly sorry, O God, for the times when we gave less than our best and ignored the gifts you have given us. Keep us mindful of those who did even more for us than we asked.***

***In the silence of your presence, loving God, we release our failing to you, knowing that you are the author of forgiveness and reconciliation and we give you thanks for your mercy and grace.***

***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: You are invited to relax into the healing certainty of God's love – to breathe in the gift of new life given to you by the God who calls you by name and claims you as his own.

**P:** ***For the forgiveness and healing which renews us, we give thanks to our God.***

**L:** Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel -

**A:** ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

## Meeting God in the Word

### **Children's Message**

**First Lesson** *Psalm 79: 1-8*

*Plea for Mercy for Jerusalem*

*Lay Leader:*



*O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.*

*They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to*

*bury them. We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.*

*How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire? Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name. For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.*

*Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.*

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

**Second Lesson** *Jeremiah 8: 18 – 9:1 The Prophet Mourns for the People* Carol



*My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: ‘Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?’ (‘Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?’)*

*‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.’ For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.*

*Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!*

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

**Sermon**

*Medicine for the Soul*

# 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 a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick 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***

\*Affirmation of Faith        Questions from *The Heidelberg Catechism, 1562*

Q. 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

**A:    *The almighty and ever-present power of God whereby he still upholds, as it were by his own hand, heaven and earth together with all creatures, and rules in such a way that leaves and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and unfruitful years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, and everything else, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.***

Q. 28: What advantage comes from acknowledging God's creation and providence?

**A:    *We learn that we are to be patient in adversity, grateful in the midst of blessing, and to trust our faithful God and Father for the future, assured that no creature shall separate us from his love, since all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot even move.***

## 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 recall stories from the OT of offerings given to release people from all the burden of their sins. There are no such offerings anymore for by the offering of Christ's own life, we have all been consecrated as your children and*

partners in ministry. What we offer today is a token of our love and commitment to serve you with our lives. Accept it and multiply it to accomplish your purposes. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

## Going Out to Serve

\*Hymn

*Trust and Obey*



*1-When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word  
What a glory he sheds on our way!  
Let us do his good will; he abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.* **R**

***Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

*2-Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil he does richly repay!  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
But is blest if we trust and obey.* **R**

*3-But we never can prove the delight of his love  
Until all on the altar we lay:  
For the favor he shows and the joy he bestows  
Are for those who will trust and obey.* **R**

*4-Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet  
Or we'll walk by his side in the way;  
What says we will do, where he sends we will go;  
Never fear, only trust and obey.* **R**

**\*Blessing**

L: God has blessed us with new life through the healing love of God.

**P: *There truly is a balm in Gilead and everywhere God's Spirit dwells.***

L: Therefore, go forth from this place and offer in kind the gift you have received.

**P: *We will go out and share the gift of the calming, healing presence of the love of Christ with each person we meet.***

L: And may the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forevermore ....

**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.*

