

the Potter &



the Clay
Jer. 18:1-6

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
September 4, 2022 10:00am Service



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The Worship of God

September 4, 2022 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader:

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



In the town of Athens, Georgia, there is a social agency called “The Potter’s House.” In this agency, discarded people such as drug addicts and alcoholics learn to re-enter society by fixing people’s discarded appliances. There are two simultaneous processes of recycling going on – Drug addicts and alcoholics are rehabilitated as they rehabilitate cast-off appliances. There is no waste in “The Potter’s House” as individuals collect old appliances, repair them and sell them, only to discover that they themselves are

repaired in the process

There is no waste in “The Potter’s House.” The potential of all humanity rests in the idea that God does not create waste – God recycles! There are people who have tough times in life and they may feel that they cannot make it any longer. But God does not create waste. Fortunately, God is ready and eager to take what is broken and fix it; what is wounded and heal it; what is defiled and cleanse it; what is bitter and sweeten it; what is impure and purify it; what is incomplete and make it whole; what is ugly and turn it into something that is beautiful. May we learn to do the same.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- L: God invites us to come together as the people of God, and to receive this opportunity as a gift.
- P: *Let us receive this gift with gratitude, responding in grateful anticipation of meeting God here today.***
- L: Come, offering your FULL self to God, knowing that God created this Sabbath that we might worship the Lord our God.
- P: *We will enter God’s presence with singing, giving thanks for this chance to gather as the Body of Christ.***

Hymn # 473For the Beauty of the Earth*

1-For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

3-For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight.
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

2-For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

4-For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Prayer of Confession

Lay Leader



O God, we have come into your house this day in awe of finding you at the potter's wheel, fashioning clay into earthen vessels. We come to acknowledge your power and wisdom, and to confess that we have resisted your purpose for us. So now, we come to give ourselves to you and whatever you desire for us. We put ourselves into your hands that we might be shaped into vessels of love and mercy. O Lord, you are the Potter, and we are the clay. "Mold us, and make us after your will, while we are waiting, yielded and still." And now, O God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgivenessAmen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Grace and mercy are upon the chosen in Christ.

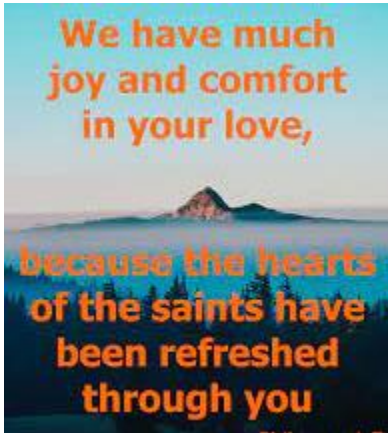
P: ***The faithful will abide in God's love forever.***

L: Friends, may we not only believe the Good News of the Gospel;

A: ***May each of us live it out each and every day!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *Philemon 1: 1-21**Partners with Christ**Lay Leader*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love - and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother - especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

Second Lesson*Jeremiah 18: 1-11**The Potter and the Clay*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.



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

Sermon

Useful in the Eyes of God

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

1-Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

3-Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power – all power – surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

2-Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in thy presence humbly I bow.

4-Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

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: Loving God, we give you thanks that you care so deeply for all of your creation. It amazes us that you know every detail of our wants and need, our concerns and our joys. Help us to be faithful partners with you in your ministry that the world might know your love. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving



Going Out to Serve

*Hymn

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

*1-All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*3-All the way my Savior leads me;
Oh, the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way;
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.*

*2-All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see.*

***Charge #322**

Congregation Sings Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Blessing**

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.*

