

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
August 23, 2020 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

August 23, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Skip Leeson

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

Famed radio and television newscaster, Edward R. Murrow, was rarely at a loss for words. After visiting a liberated German concentration camp, in the aftermath of World War II, however, he could only say this to his listeners: "I pray you believe what I have said about this camp. I have reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it, I have no words..."

In bringing testimony about the horrors of the camps to Americans who could scarcely believe such things were possible, Murrow could only appeal to his towering journalistic reputation. "Trust me," he was saying, "when I tell you how bad it is."

When Jesus asks his disciples, on the other hand, to share Good News – as they declare what they really believe about him – they are equally at a loss for words. Finally, Peter blurts out his famous confession. There simply are no words that can convince others of this "good news." Only personal experience and testimony, by which Peter says something like "Trust me, when I tell you how good a Savior we have."

Call to Worship

L: Who do you say that Jesus is?

P: Jesus is the Christ – the Son of God.

L: Christ summons us to act in ways that displease the crowd, and he calls us to take up our cross and follow him.

P: He requires that our confessions and our actions are one and the same.

L: And yet, even when they are not the same, Christ does not forsake or abandon us.

A: O Lord, let what we say about you in worship, and what people see in us, be one and the same.

*Hymn of Praise # 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.*

*Fairest are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring; Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host: Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels heaven can boast.*

Prayer of Confession

There is no doubt in our minds, O God, that Jesus is your Son. We are your children – your church – and we exist to worship you, and to be your witness to the world. Help our faith to be personal – not just impersonal theology. May this, your church, stand strong against the forces of evil in the world, and strengthen us to be committed to the building up of this church. Forgive our unstable ways which we consider to be discipleship. Help us to make our faith vital, that you may count on us to spread your love and your Word. And now we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the Good News: We have been justified through faith in Christ.

P: We have been received into God's gracious care.

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Romans 12: 1-8

New Life in Christ

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

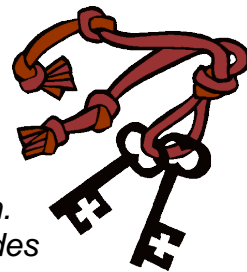
For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Second Lesson

Matthew 16: 13-20

Peter's Declaration About Jesus

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



JESUS IS _____.

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** *By All Your Saints Still Striving* (sung to the tune of *O Jesus, I Have Promised*, #388)

*By all your saints still striving, For all your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed!
For those passed on before us, We sing our praise anew,
And, walking in their footsteps, Would live our lives for you.*

*We praise you for the Baptist, Forerunner of the Word,
Our true Elijah, Making a highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet, He saw the dawning ray,
Of light that grows in splendor, Until the perfect day.*

*All praise, O Lord, for Andrew, The first to welcome you,
Whose witness to his brother, Named you Messiah true.
May we, with hearts kept open, To you throughout the year,
Proclaim the friend and neighbor, Your advent ever near.*

*For Magdalene we praise you, Steadfast at cross and tomb.
Your "Mary!" in the garden, Dispelled her tears and gloom.
Apostle to the apostles, She ran to spread the word,
Send us to shout the good news, That we have seen the Lord!*

*We pray for saints we know not, For saints still yet to be,
For grace to bear true witness, And serve you faithfully.
Till all the ransomed number, Who stand before the throne,
Ascribe all power and glory And praise to God alone.*

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Fred Noll (Trustee, Class of 2020) &
Chuck Boyce (Elder, Class of 2022)

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

The Invitation *You are invited to place your offering in the basket at the
back of the sanctuary or send it in to the church. Thank you!*

Prayer of Dedication: God of love and caring, we give you thanks for all of our blessings. Help us to be faithful in the way we use our resources, that we might bring you honor and glory, drawing others to your kingdom.

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # 282

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee, With hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, To bear thee through the evil days,
Who trust in God's unchanging love, Builds on the rock that nought can move.*

*Only be still, and wait God's leisure, In cheerful hope, with heart content,
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure, And all discerning love hath sent,
No doubt our inmost wants are clear, To One who holds us always dear.*

*Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, But do thine own part faithfully,
Trust the rich promises of grace, So shall they be fulfilled in thee,
God never yet forsook at need, The soul secured by trust indeed.*

* Blessing

L: Today we have acknowledged the lordship of Christ with our lips.

P: *Now, as we leave this worship service, let us be equally eloquent in bearing witness to the lordship of Christ with our live.*

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

*Response

*He Is Lord
He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

