



**“...choose you this day whom ye will serve ...  
but as for me and my house,  
we will serve the LORD.”**

Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**October 3, 2021**

**Worship Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709**

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

# The Worship of God

## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### World Communion Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader:

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



*Being a Christian is NOT about getting one's life together; it is about TRUSTING in God and LIVING in Christ. It is about sharing in the lives of others which includes suffering and joy, doubt and faith, the cross and the resurrection, and in the midst of it all, knowing that GOD is the source of whatever happens. To abide in Christ means to trust.*

*No matter what pain or suffering you have, you are NOT cut off from God. In your baptism, your place on the vine has been assured, and as Paul says, nothing can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39).*

*By the power of Christ, who lived, died, and lives again, and by your faith in him, your sins have been forgiven. Your sins, like dead branches have been pruned and tossed on the fire and consumed. All who remain in Christ are enabled to live faithful lives and bear the rich fruit of God's love. God says, "I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more" (Jer. 31: 34). Praise God!*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Choose this day whom you will serve.

**P: *It is the Lord our God who brought us up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did great signs in our sight.***

L: God protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;

**A: *Therefore, we will serve the Lord, for he is our God.***

\*Hymn of Praise

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

# 309

*1 – Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he.  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*2 – O ye heights of heaven adore him;  
Angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before him,  
And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!*



3 – *Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unwearied praises be;  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!*

### Prayer of Confession

**O Watcher of the faithful, we could put on the comfortable shirt of faith, but too often, we prefer fear with its frayed cuffs and stains on the front. We could slip on the loafers of peace, but we tend to squeeze into the size-too-small stiff dress shoes of anger. We could wrap truth around our lives, and yet, we continue to punch holes in the belt of falsehood so that it always fits. Hear our prayer, O God, and rescue us from our worst selves. When we are lonely, you offer us your heart as a refuge. When we are broken, you knit us back together. When we are afraid, you promise to draw us into your embrace. When we are faithless, you continue to call us to follow Jesus the Christ - the only Word we need in the midst of so many hollow promises. 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: As God listens to our voices and hearts, our brokenness is gathered up and we made whole, as mercy and hope fill our lives.
- P: We are forgiven and transformed into new creations.**
- L: We are clothed with grace and peace, so that we may go out and serve as God's people.
- P: Thanks be to God!**

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message

#### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

*John 15:1-17*

*Jesus – the True Vine*

*'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by*

*this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*

*'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.  
Joshua 24: 1-2, 14 – 27

P: Thanks be to God.  
Choosing Whom to Love and Serve

## Second Lesson

*Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors - Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor - lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.*

*'Now you shall revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'*

*Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'*

*But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord!' Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.' The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the Lord. Joshua said to all the people, 'See, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, if you deal falsely with your God.'*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

*Choose God THIS Day and EVERY Day!*



## Responding to the Word

### \*Hymn

*Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

*Lord, we have come at your own invitation,  
Chosen by you, to be counted your friends;  
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication;  
Ours, a commitment we know never ends.*

*Here, at your table, confirm our intention;  
Give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;  
Teach us to serve without pride or pretention,  
All that it means to accept you as Lord.*

*When, at your table, each time of returning,  
Vows are renewed and our courage restored.  
May we increasingly gory in learning  
All that it means to accept you as Lord.*

### 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



*God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.*

*Prayer: May these simple gifts transform into shoes for those who have none, into clothes for kids wanting to feel special, into faith, hope, peace, and grace for all of your children, Holy God. Amen.*

# Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation and Prayer of Consecration  
 The Words of Institution  
 The Sharing of the Elements  
 The Prayer of Thanksgiving



## Going Out to Serve

### Closing Hymn

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

1 - *I have decided to follow Jesus;  
 I have decided to follow Jesus'  
 I have decided to follow Jesus;  
 No turning back, no turning back.*

2 – *Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
 Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
 Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
 No turning back, no turning back.*

3 – *The world behind me, the cross before me;  
 The world behind me, the cross before me.  
 The world behind me, the cross before me;  
 No turning back, no turning back.*

### Blessing

L: To whom should we go, Holy God, now that worship is over?

**P: *We will go to nurture others with grace.***

L: Where should we go, Holy One, now that the songs have been sung?

**P: *We will go to serve those around us, for YOU are the Word of hope we all need.***

L: Why should we go from this place, gracious Spirit, where we find meaning for our lives?

**P: *We will go to gather those who are lonely, knowing that we all hunger for community.***

L: And may the blessings...

### Response

*He Is Lord - 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.*

