



LIVE FEARLESSLY!

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
October 8, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

October 8, 2023 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Stewardship Season 2023 Fearless Generosity Part 1

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



At age 23, Tina Fey was working at a YMCA. At age 23, Oprah was fired from her first reporting job. At age 24, Stephen King was working as a janitor and living in a trailer. At age 27, Vincent van Gogh failed as a missionary and decided to go to art school. At age 28, J.K. Rowling was a suicidal single parent living on welfare. At age 30, Harrison Ford was a carpenter. At age 30, Martha Stewart was a stockbroker. At age 49, Julia Child released her first cookbook. At age 40, Vera Wang designed her first dress after failing to make the Olympic figure skating team and failing to get the Editor-in-Chief position at Vogue. Samuel L. Jackson didn't get his first movie role until he was 41. Morgan Freeman landed his first major role at age 52. Grandma Moses didn't begin her painting career until age 76.

*Whatever your dream is, it is NOT TOO LATE to achieve it. You aren't a failure because you haven't found fame and fortune by the age of 21. Learn to live a **FEARLESS LIFE**, trying to the best of your ability to discern your God-given talents and abilities and giving thanks for them!*

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Consider the beauty and grandeur of creation. What a mighty Creator is our God!

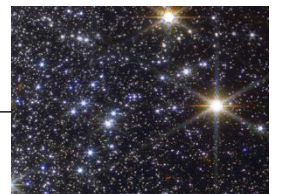
P: ***We travel far and wide, from the depths of the ocean to outer space. And yet, we understand so little of God's creation.***

L: God's wisdom is far beyond what we will ever achieve. We can only glory in his power and might, and learn to respect the One who made all that is.

P: ***We are filled with awe when we gather to worship God. His greatness is beyond our comprehension.***

Hymn # 268

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



*1-God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space:
We, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*

*2-We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.*

*3-As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance, till our goals and yours are one.*

Prayer of Confession

We express praise freely in worship, O God, for what you have done for us through your son, Jesus. But our submission to sin keeps our praise from being honest. Forgive us for not opening our lives to Christ's lordship over all that we have and are. Help us to spend our lives in thanksgiving for our salvation that Christ's glory may be seen through us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer that we might confess our sins.....Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

- L:** The Good News is for us all this day: Christ loves us and calls us forth to new life.
- P:** ***No matter what has happened in the past, no matter what we have done or not done, God's love nourishes us with new life.***
- L:** Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel-
- P:** ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *The Highlights of Creation from Genesis Ch. 1 & 2* **Lay Leader**



In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Next God created the sky, the oceans and the Earth.

And God saw that they were good. And then God created plants with fruit, with seasons, the sun and the moon. And again, God saw that they were good. And next, God created

all kinds of living creatures on land and in the sea and birds that fly and others who live on the earth. And God saw that they were good too.

And then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

And then we hear the 2nd account of creation in ch. 2 of Genesis:

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. Then the Lord said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name,; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

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

Second Lesson

Two readings about Being Fearless for God

Carol

Matthew 10: 26-31



A 32: 12th Sunday Ordinary Time

Matthew 10: 26-31

*'So **have no fear** of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your*

*Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So **do not be afraid**; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

*Now to Him
who is able
to do
immeasurably more
than we can ask
or imagine,
to Him
be glory
for ever and ever.
Amen!
Ephesians 3:20-21*

Ephesians 3: 20-21

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Sermon

Fearless Generosity Part 1 – Fearless Living

Responding to the Word

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Hymn #288

*1-I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*



*2-I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies!*

*3-There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

Litany of Faith

L: The Lord declared, "It is not good that you be alone." So out of the ground God formed all creatures,

P: And God brought them to us, to assign them their names.

L: We foraged with the beasts of the field, and then we pronounced them "cattle."

P: We soared among the birds of the air, and then we pronounced them "eagles."

L: Our tongues were anointed with this strange power to name – to bear witness to the glory of God.

P: But now the very beasts we christened are threatened with extinction.

L: And the very birds our tongues baptized are perishing at our hands.

P: *The world cries out for salvation, and the fateful word shall fall from our lips:*

L: Shall we proclaim it the promised land, its rivers flowing with milk and honey?
Or shall we decree it a wasteland, its wounds flowing with wormwood and gall?

P: *The Lord declares, "It is not good that creatures be alone." So out of the ground God fashions all flesh.*

L: And God brings us to the creatures, to assign us our name: Shall judgment or mercy fall from their lips?

A: *May God give us the wisdom to be good caretakers of the world.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

Lord, we read in your Word that you took the offering of a simple man and fed a hundred people. We also read that you took the humble contribution of a boy with his five loaves and two fish, and fed thousands. Will you take these offerings of ours today and multiply them in such a magnificent way that you alone get the glory and praise? May all that we give feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and sustain the widows and orphans. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 469

Morning Has Broken

*1-Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*2-Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*3-Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*



Blessing

L: Now to him by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

P: *To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.*

L: *And may the blessings*



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.*