

# The Holy Spirit Our Helper



New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
May 14, 2023                            10:00am Service



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# The Worship of God

May 14, 2023    The Sixth Sunday After Easter

## Welcome and Announcements

## Sharing Our Vision

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



You know you have gone to the “dogs” when...

- Nobody’s feet are allowed on the furniture, but your dogs are welcome to sleep on any piece of furniture they so choose.
- You start barking at your children to “Sit! or Stay!”
- All your social activities revolve around other dog people.

- Your mom calls and asks how the grand-dogs are.
- You describe your children as having temperaments rather than personalities.
- Your desk proudly displays your canine family.
- You buy a bigger bed that will comfortably sleep six.
- More than half of your grocery money goes to dog food and treats.
- You buy a minivan to give them all enough travel room.
- You send out specially made holiday cards that feature your canine family.
- Your dogs eat only the most nutritionally sound food, while your favorite meal is mac ‘n cheese.
- You’ve traced your dog’s family tree further than you have your own.

Some more canine commentary:

- Absolutely nothing in the world is friendlier than a wet dog.
- The reason dogs have so many friends is because they wag their tails and not their tongues.
- If your dog is fat, YOU aren’t getting enough exercise.
- The greatest dog is the hot dog, for it feeds the hand that bites it.

## Preparing to Meet God

## Call to Worship

L: We are gathered together to worship the God who has called us to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength,

- P:** And the God who has asked us to follow his direction.
- L:** We are invited to worship God in the Spirit of truth.
- P:** We do so, because we know the Spirit and the Spirit knows us.
- L:** We are reminded that we are not alone,
- P:** Because the Holy Spirit is always among us.
- A:** Let us rejoice that because Christ lives, we also live.

Hymn # 287 G2G Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



1-Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading;  
Fashion us all anew.  
It's your leading that we're needing;  
Help us to follow you. **R**

**Refrain:**  
**Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**  
**Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**

2-Come to teach us; come to nourish  
Those who believe in Christ.  
Bless the faithful; may they flourish,  
Strengthened by grace unpriced. **R**

4-Not mere knowledge; but discernment,  
Nor rootless liberty;  
Turn disquiet to contentment,  
Doubt into certainty. **R**

3-Guide our thinking and our speaking  
Done in your holy name.  
Motivate all in their seeking,  
Freeing from guilt and shame. **R**

5-Keep us fervent in our witness,  
Unswayed by earth's allure.  
Ever grant us zealous fitness,  
Which you alone assure. **R**

### Prayer of Confession

*Giver of commandments, we have received your Law but have not kept it wholly. Keeper of commandments, we have not loved fully as you do. Interpreter of commandments, we have resisted the truth, not wanting to know fully what you expect of us. Forgive our incomplete obedience, half-hearted love, and evasion of the whole truth. We seek your mercy, your advocacy, and your counsel through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.*

### Assurance of Pardon

- L:** Hear the Good News:
- P:** Christ died for our sins once and for all.
- L:** He who was just, suffered for the unjust, to draw us closer to God. Friends,

believe and trust the Good News of the Gospel -

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

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message

#### First Lesson

*Psalm 66: 8-20*

*God Tries Us Like Silver*

*Lay Leader*



Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

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

#### Second Reading

*John 14: 15-21*

*The Promise of the Holy Spirit*

*Carol*



*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.'*

*'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;*

*and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'*

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

#### Sermon

*What We Can Learn from Dogs*



# Responding to the Word

Hymn # 319

Spirit

1-*You moved on the waters,  
You called to the deep,  
Then you coaxed up the mountains  
From the valleys of sleep.  
And over the eons  
You called to each thing,  
“Awake from your slumbers  
And rise on your wings”*      R

2-*You swept through the desert,  
You stung with the sand,  
And you gifted your people  
With a law and a land,  
And when they were blinded,  
With their idols and lies,  
Then you spoke through your prophets  
To open their eyes.*      R

4-*You call from tomorrow,  
You break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow  
The captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions,  
Our men clear their eyes,  
With bold new decisions  
Your people arise.*      R

**Refrain:**  
*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness,  
Calling and free.  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness,  
Wind, wind on the sea.*

3-*You sang in a stable,  
You cried from a hill,  
Then you whispered in silence  
When the whole world was still.  
And down in the city  
You called once again  
When you blew through your people  
On the rush of the wind.*      R



## Litany of Faith

L: God says, “O World of Mine, I send you my Spirit.”

P: **Do not leave us alone, O God.**

L: God says, “My Spirit of Truth, your Comforting Friend, will stay with you forever.”

P: **Do not leave us alone, O God.**

L: God says, “I will not leave you desolate. A time comes when the world will not see me, but you will recognize me. You will know that I live, and because I live, you shall live also.”

P: **Do not leave us alone, O God.**

L: Behold the Spirit that God sends in my name. Receive the Counselor.

A: **Peace Christ leaves us; peace Christ gives us. Let not our hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

## The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

### The Celebration of Our Gifts

*Ruler of nations and peoples and Head of the Church, we have vowed to give ourselves in every way as members of the Body of Christ. We are here to fulfill our vows and to give substance to our promises. Receive us and our offerings for the strengthening of your church. Amen.*

### Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 315

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*



#### **Refrain:**

***Every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart I will pray.***

1-Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,  
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,  
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.      R

2-Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
It chills the body, but not the soul.  
There is but one train upon this track;  
It runs to heaven and then right back.      R

### Blessing

L: Be a loving spirit with a tender heart and a humble mind.

P: ***We will have the mind in us that was in Christ Jesus and Christ shall walk beside us.***

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.*