



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
June 11, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

June 11, 2023 Second Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader – Georgia Mackay

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*In the devotional, “My Utmost for His Highest”, Oswald Chambers says, “Bethel is the symbol of **fellowship with God**; Ai is the symbol of the **world**. Abram pitched his tent between the two. The lasting value of our public service for God is measured by the depth of the intimacy of our private times of fellowship and oneness with God. Rushing in and out of worship is wrong every time – there is always plenty of time to worship God.*

Days set apart for quiet can be a trap, detracting from the need to have daily quiet time with God. That is why we must “pitch our tents” where we will always have quiet times with him, however noisy our times with the world may be. There are not three levels of the spiritual life – worship, waiting, and work. Yet some of us seem to jump like spiritual frogs from worship to waiting, and from waiting to work. God’s idea is that the three should go together as one. They were always together in the life of our Lord and in perfect harmony. It is a discipline that must be developed; it will not happen overnight.”

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

A: Come and seek God’s face. Wait for the Lord and take courage.

L: We come seeking God’s face, waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ, for he gives us courage and strength.

Hymn # 457

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

*1-I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*2-Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in every place;
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.*

*3-Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive;
Sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
And give us strength in every trying hour.*

*4-Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
No harshness hast thou and no bitterness;
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
That we may dwell in perfect unity.*

Prayer of Confession

O God, we drift from one day to the next with no real purpose in being alive. Yet, we long for life in your kingdom and dream of better days which we call tomorrow. Forgive us for detaining that tomorrow by not listening to your voice which calls us to live our days with you. Open our ears and hearts in order that, as we hear you call, you may be able to work a mighty work through us in your church today. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: God give us new opportunities each day to start fresh and new.

P: ***Through God's Spirit we are empowered to celebrate life fully and to appreciate all the gifts of life.***

L: God has forgiven us and empowered us to start over.

P: ***Thanks be to God for this fresh start. We will begin anew with assurance and hope.***



Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17* *The Example of Abraham* *Lay Leader*



What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents

of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Second Lesson

Genesis 12: 1-4

The Call of Abram

Carol



Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

Sermon

Faith Pilgrimage



Responding to the Word

Hymn # 522

Lord, When I Came into This Life

1-Lord, when I came into this life
You called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself,
Responding to your claim.

3-In all the tensions of my life,
Between my faith and doubt,
Let your great Spirit give me hope,
Sustain me, lead me out.

*2-Within the circle of the faith
As member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints,
Responding to your claim.*

*4-So, help me in my unbelief
And let my life be true;
Feet firmly planted on the earth,
My sights set high on you.*

Litany of Faith



L: Shall we follow in the way taken by Abram and Sarai?

P: *When Abram heard the word of the Lord, he rose from his home to travel to an unknown place. His journey took him through hunger and trickery, strife with his family and war with strong enemies. But his faith kept him walking forward, trusting in the Lord.*

L: Then the Lord said, “No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham. I will bless you, and you shall be the father of multitudes.”

P: *His name became the mark of his new life. When by faith he was born anew, he began to see the kingdom of God.*

L: Shall we follow in the way taken by Abram and Sarai?

P: *When Sarai heard the word of the Lord, she left her home to go to a distant land. Her journey took her through hunger and trickery, strife with her family, and war with strong enemies. But her faith kept her walking forward, trusting in the Lord.*

L: Then the Lord said, “No longer shall your name be Sarai, but your name shall be Sarah. I will bless you, and you shall be a mother of multitudes.

P: *Her name became the mark of her new life. When by faith she was born anew, she began to see the kingdom of God.*

A: *We have received our name – we are the people of Christ. We have been called to go on a journey – to go into all the world to share the good news. Let us follow in the way of Abraham and Sarah. Let our faith keep us walking forward; let us trust in the Lord.*

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

God of extravagant love, fill our spirits with love and peace and place upon our hearts your call to serve all in the name of Christ. We ask that you dedicate our gifts and our lives to faithful service and ministry. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 282

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

*1-I 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 trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.*

*2-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.*

*3-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: May the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ – the One who took on our punishment willingly.

P: ***We will bear the cross like Jesus did – the One who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.***

A: ***And, in the end, he was raised up and given the name above all names.***

L: May our lives declare the Lordship of Jesus Christ today and every day. And may the blessings of God ...

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.*