

STEADFAST LOVE

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New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
August 6, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE  
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# The Worship of God

August 13, 2023 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*In Canada, there is a town that has an intersection around which (on its four corners) are four churches. The intersection is known as “Salvation Corners.” Considering the image of maps, streets, and corners, today we reflect on what happens when **STEADFAST LOVE, FAITHFULNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **PEACE** intersect.*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: People of God, the Lord is merciful!

**P: God forgives our sin and pardons all of our debts.**

L: People of God, the Lord is good!

**P: God restores us to the way of salvation.**

L: People of God, the Lord is love!

**P: God revives our spirits so that we may rejoice!**

L: People of God, the Lord is faithful!

**P: God speaks so that we may follow faithfully!**

L: People of God, the Lord is righteous!

**P: God’s glory fills this place. Let us worship the Lord our God!**

Hymn # 466

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

1-O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!

2-Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
‘Tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘this life, and health, and peace.

3-Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;  
Christ’s blood can make the sinful clean, Christ’s blood availed for me.



4-My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

## Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, we come to you in prayer with mixed feelings. We come wanting to always do our best, but we confess that we often make “wanting to DO our best” into “wanting to BE the best.” This includes wanting to be the best Christians. We confess that we want to be in control of our spiritual destinies along with everything else in our lives. Too often we look at others, immediately seeing their faults, but not wanting to look at our own shortcomings. Forgive us when we live as if we had no sins from which to turn. Convict us of our need to turn away from sin and to turn toward you, that we may heed your Word and receive your forgiveness. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer .....Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

**L:** Hear the Good News: God has forgiven us of all our sins,

**P:** ***Cancelling the debt which condemns us, according to the decrees of the Law, thus nailing it to the cross.***

**L:** Friends, believe this glorious and Good News -

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



## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message

**First Lesson**     *Matthew 7: 12-23*     *The Golden Rule & the Narrow Gate*     *Lay Leader*

*‘In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. ‘Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*



*‘Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.*

*‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and*

*do many deeds of power in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers."*

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

## Second Lesson

*Psalm 85 Prayer for God's Favor to be Restored*

*Carol*



Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation towards us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

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

## Sermon

*Salvation Crossroads*

## Responding to the Word

### Hymn # 280

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*



*1-Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*2-'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*3-Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*4-The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portions be as long as life endures.*

## The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

#### The Celebration of Our Gifts

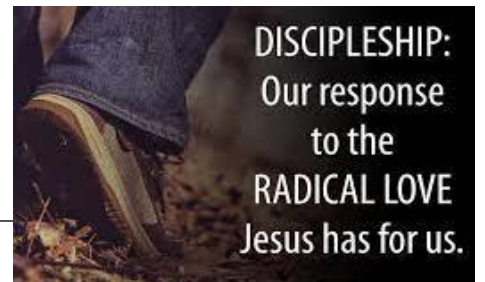
*Supreme and holy God, as powerful as you are, you care for the lowly. Receive our humble offerings and enable us to participate with you in your unfinished work in the world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.*



## Going Out to Serve

### Hymn # 434

*Today We All Are Called  
to Be Disciples*



*1-Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*2-God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

*3-Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem,  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*4-May we in service to our God act out the living Word,  
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

## Blessing

L: The road to salvation is open to all,

**P: *But the gate leading to Godly life is narrow.***

L: Let us seek the road which leads us to eternal life with God,

**P: *Where steadfast love and faithfulness meet,***

L: And righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**P: *May these be the qualities we seek in our lives that they might be pleasing to God.***

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 has risen from the dead, and he is Lord. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*