



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



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# The Worship of God

August 6, 2023 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*"There is no cash register at the Panera café near Government Center in Boston. There are no prices either - just suggested donations and bins to leave money, if you can afford to." So says the Boston Globe, in an article about the Panera Cares Café that opened its doors in January, 2013. What a business model! It's a social-outreach project of the Panera Bread Company, most of whose restaurants operate in traditional menu-with-prices mode. At a few select urban locations, the company's Panera Cares Foundation has been experimenting with this new way of operating.*

*The surprising thing is, it seems to work - at least in carefully-researched locations, in which new patrons are briefed on the restaurant's pay-it-forward philosophy. The concept is that those who can't pay for their meals, volunteer a little time to help operate the place, and that those who can afford it, leave a little extra money on the counter. The Panera Cares Cafés are feeding considerably more than 5,000 - and what's more, they're helping more than 5,000 feed themselves.*

*- On the Boston café: [boston.com/businessupdates](http://boston.com/businessupdates)*

*- On the Portland café: [oregonlive.com](http://oregonlive.com). Retrieved February 2, 2014*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

**L:** The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

**P:** ***The Lord is good to all, and he has compassion on all whom he has made.***

**L:** The Lord upholds all who fall, and he lifts up all who are bowed down.

**P:** ***When we open our hands, God satisfies the desires of every living thing.***

**L:** The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and faithful in all he does.

**P:** ***The Lord is near to all who call on him – to all who call on him in truth.***

**A:** ***Come, let us worship the Lord our God, for God is HERE, waiting to meet us.***

Hymn # 626 G2G

*As the Deer*

*1-As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

2- You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King; I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

Refrain:  
You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.



3- I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

Refrain:  
You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Merciful God, like your first disciples, we are short-sighted and small-minded. We focus on our problems and needs, and on what seems like logical or possible solutions. We rely on our own strengths and resources, and we very quickly become overwhelmed. We forget to turn to you, and we fail to depend on your Spirit. Forgive us, Lord. Remind us, yet again, that your ways are not ours, and that, WITH YOU, all things are possible. Renew us in faith and commitment, that we might trust you in every situation. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer .....Amen.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

- L: Hear the Good News: What a precious gift is ours, that we do not remain broken and burdened by our sins.
- P: **Jesus Christ forgives and renews us to walk in freedom and power.**
- 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**      *Psalm 145*      *The Greatness and Goodness of God*      *Lay Leader*



*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.*

*One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.*

*All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

*The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.*

*The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.*

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

**Second Lesson**      *Matthew 14: 13-21*      *Feeding the Five Thousand*      *Carol*



*Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for*

*themselves.'* Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said,

*'Bring them here to me.'* Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

## Sermon

*From Not Enough to Plenty*

# Responding to the Word

## Hymn #

*Where Is Bread?*

*Sung to Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

1-*"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured.  
Thousands strong, yet all in need.  
"Where is bread?" your people wondered,  
Faced with such a crowd to feed.  
Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?  
One small boy brought food to share.  
Taking what he gave, you blessed it;  
All were fed, with much to spare.*

2-*Where is bread? We know their yearning;  
Every day, we wish for more.  
God, in time, we're slowly learning;  
All we own can make us poor.  
Our possessions can possess us,  
Leaving hunger deep inside.  
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;  
At your feast, we're satisfied.*



## The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

## The Celebration of Our Gifts

*Holy and loving God, we come before you today with thankful hearts. It is a privilege to give of our time, talents and resources to further the work of your kingdom. Receive this offering for that purpose and all that we have to share in response to your love and call. Amen.*



# The Sacrament 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

Hymn # 441

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

*1-I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,  
 The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.*



*2-I love thy church, O God; Her walls before thee stand,  
 Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.*

*3-For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;  
 To her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.*

*4-Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,  
 Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.*

*5-Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given.  
 The brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.*



## Blessing

L: Today we have heard God's Word that some of Jesus' disciples would have sent away the crowds that gathered to hear his message, insisting, "We cannot feed you."

**P: *But Jesus invited them to stay and to be fed.***

L: Jesus calls us, too, to provide food and drink for a hungry and thirsting world.

**P: *To the crowds, we will give our fish from the river, and fowl from the air. To the multitudes, we will offer our bread from the field and fruit from the tree, for God has blessed us with far more abundance than we need.***

L: Lift up what you have, looking to heaven and offering it to God, that it might be blessed and multiplied, and that in the sharing of it, we might honor God.

**P: *We will gladly share all that we have with our brothers and sisters, that all the world might behold the power and love of 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.*