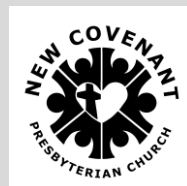


Search me,
O God,
and know my *Heart*
test me & know
my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any
offensive way in me,
➤ Lead ➤ Me ➤
in the way everlasting.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
● *Psalm 139:23-24* ●

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
July 23, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

July 23, 2023 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader:

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



Psalm 139 is a psalm of David. David's personality and recognizable voice as a psalmist are clear here. David's attitude in Psalm 139 is admirable because he chose to thank God for fully knowing him and watching all that he does. The truth that God knows each and every one of us on such a deep, personal level is disturbing to some. David had the ability to think differently about God's divine

presence and omniscience, but he modeled the appropriate behavior by admiring and appreciating God's ability to hear, see, and know us like no one else can.

This thought is frightening to some who are more private people. There is nothing wrong with being a private person, except when it comes to God. It is common for a person to never share the full version of themselves. However, God has a deep desire for us to want to know him as much as he wants to know us. He wants to deepen this connection every day. He wants us to actively live in ways that will bring him closer to us. He wants to be our immediate go-to, best friend, and lifeline. May we increasingly learn to live out God's plan for us.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

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

P: *And also with you.*

L: Worship reverently for God is in this place and desires to commune with you.

P: *God calls us to gather and worship that we might be strengthened to live as Christ's disciples.*

A: *We have come; now let us worship Almighty God.*

Hymn # 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

1-All creatures of our God and King,
 Lift up your voice and with us sing,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thou burning sun with golden beam,
 Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



2-Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
 Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
 Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3-Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
 Make music for thy Lord to hear,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thou fire so masterful and bright,
 That givest us both warmth and light,
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



4-Thou fertile earth, that day by day
 Unfoldest blessings on your way,
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
 Let them God's glory also show!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we do not live as you desire. Your plumb line condemns the things we do and the things we have left undone. Forgive any practice of ours that values things or people more than you. We speak too much and listen too little. And so, on this day, we pray that you would draw us close and enable us to spend our days in prayer and service to you. Forgive us when we are selfish, lazy, hard of hearing or less than honest in our moments with you. By your grace, teach us to pray so that we may come to know the heart of Jesus in fresh and vibrant ways this and every day. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayerAmen.



Assurance of Pardon

L: God is always ready to hear us and to forgive our sincere confessions.

P: ***We give thanks for this wonderful blessing.***

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

Romans 8: 1-8

Life in the Spirit

Lay Leader



There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their

minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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

Second Lesson

Psalms 139: 1-12, 23-24

The Inescapable God

Carol



O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover

me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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

Sermon

Finding God on Vacation

Responding to the Word

Hymn

God, How Many Are a Thousand?

(Tune: Called as Partners in Christ's Service, #343)

1-God, how many are a thousand
Out of all the grains of sand,
And how many are a thousand
Of the stars that you command?
Lord, how awesome is the meaning
Of this new day shining bright,
For we know a thousand years are
As a moment in your sight.

3-God, in Christ, you showed that caring:
You broke through our time and space.
Christ proclaimed how much you love us,
Showing your redeeming grace.
Jesus healed the ones who suffered;
He endured death's mighty pain.
In your time, you raised our Savior;
With him, life begins again.

2-God, we look to your vast heavens;
Constellations seem to dance.
In each atom is your detail,
And you form the smallest plants.
When we look back through the ages,
There we see your hand as well.
Thank you, God, for loving, caring
For this world in which we dwell.

4-Yet, O God, our world still searches,
Longing for the peace you give.
In this age when life is changing,
Teach us, Lord, in whom we live.
Show again Christ's risen presence,
Guide us by your Spirit's power.
May we find the joy you offer,
As we serve you every hour.

5-God, how joyful are a thousand
When we Christians join to sing!
And how mighty are a thousand
When we share the gifts we bring!
Christ, we seek to work together;
Hand in hand you make us strong.
Spirit, help us in this new time:
Give us joy in work and song.



Affirmation of Faith



We believe in the One who gives us life as our Creator, and we affirm that we are called to be witnesses to this Creator God in the world. Therefore, there is no choice for us but to immerse ourselves in the stream of history, accepting our particular place in time, and doing the best we can with what we have. We believe that failure to accept

responsibility to be good stewards of the world with which we have been blessed is a denial of life and of God's will for our lives; these are, in fact, deeds of death.

We know that God calls us to affirm the gift and blessing of life and not become dead to it through timidity and fear. God calls us to do our best to understand the times in which we live, and to add our weight to the scales on the side of justice. We know that if we live our lives responsibly, we need not worry about physical death. Our job is to live out God's love as we have learned it from Jesus right here and right now. And God will take care of the rest. So be it!

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

Use our gifts, gracious God, to bind up the wounded, to anoint the unnoticed with our blessings and to provide the sacraments to those who draw near to you through this church. Open our eyes to how you want us to serve you with all that we are and have. Amen.



Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 162

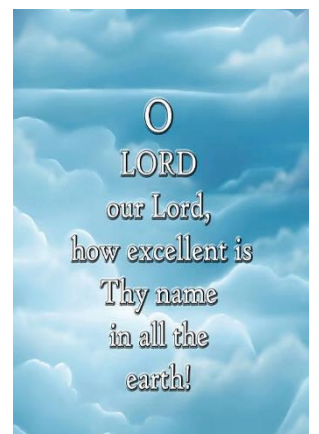
O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

*1-O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name.
Your majesty surrounds the earth, and children sing your fame.*

*2-The heavens shout your handiwork; we stand beneath in awe,
To think the One who made all things should care for us at all.*

*3-Yet you have made us less than gods, surpassing all but you,
With heart and mind, with strength and will, to search for what is true.*

*4-Into our hands you've placed all things: The earth, the sea; each place
We're called to probe for secret gifts and venture into space.*



*5-O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name.
Majestic in your holiness, we sing and praise your fame.*

Blessing

L: Open your minds to the ways you have put God in a box and experience God in new ways.

P: ***For there is no place that we can go where God is not with us.***

L: Walk with God and may the blessings of Almighty 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.*