

New Covenant Community Church
October 18, 2020

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us reflect the light of the One in whose image we are created.

People: **Let us follow the One in whose image we are created.**

Leader: Let us impart the peace of the One in whose image we are created.

People: **Let us be filled with the love of the One in whose image we are created.**

Leader: Let us reveal the grace of the One in whose image we are created.

People: **And here in this place let us worship the One in whose image we are created.**

HYMN

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Come, Christians, join to sing! Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, “Alleluia! Amen!”

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God,

Renewer of reality,

Weaver of wonder,

Lord of life and love,

although You call us to contribute to Your kingdom,

we confess that we have been shaped by the world's systems.

We have ignored the welfare of our fellow human beings;

we have offered our allegiance to false idols;

and we have turned away from Your truth.

Forgive our sin that induces us to be

more callous than compassionate,

more disinterested than devoted,

and more greedy than gracious.

Grant that we may render to You our most authentic love and faithfulness,

so that we may follow Your way and live as Your disciples,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Silent)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has passed away, and the new has come.

People: **All this is from God, to whom we have been reconciled through Christ, and God has now given us the ministry of reconciliation.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

MEDITATION

“Between a Religious Rock and an Imperial Hard Place”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

BENEDICTION