

**New Covenant Community Church
November 8, 2020**



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 63:1-7)

Leader: Because our soul thirsts for God, let us earnestly seek the LORD.

People: **Let us look upon the LORD in the sanctuary of creation, beholding God's power and glory.**

Leader: Because God's steadfast love is better than life, may our lips forever praise God.

People: **Let us bless the LORD as long as we live.**

Leader: May we lift up our hands and praise God with joyful lips.

People: **Illumined by the light of God's love, let us sing for joy to the Lord of our heart.**

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Ken Heischman

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and merciful God,

**although You have called us to be courageous in our discipleship,
we confess our weakness, our doubts, and our despair.**

We have been afraid of changes;

**we have resisted ideas and situations that threaten our comfort;
and we have relied on our faith only as a last recourse.**

Forgive us, Lord, and deepen our commitment to You,

so that we may participate in the work that You entrust to us.

Set us free from any hopelessness,

and enable us to completely commit ourselves to You,

so that as You send us forth to serve,

**we may live and speak and act in the pattern of Jesus Christ our Lord, in
whose name we pray. (Silent)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from Colossians 1:13-14)

Leader: God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

People: In Christ, we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

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

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

HYMN

May the God of Hope Go with Us

Ken Heischman

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

(Repeat)

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

MEDITATION

"A Season of Hope"

HYMN

My Hope Is Built

Ken Heischman

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

BENEDICTION