



The Glendale New Church  
845 Congress Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 513-772-1478

# The Precursor

October 2018

## Our Mission:

The Glendale New Church connects heaven to earth by worshiping the Lord God Jesus Christ; discovering eternal truths in His Word; promoting spiritual awareness; and fostering community

## Announcements

*Please note that we are meeting for an informal worship service and lunch on the first Sunday of the month in October, October 7. We will return to the usual Second Sunday meeting data next month.*

## FROM THE WORD

Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.” Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”

Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them. Mark 4:26-34

“There are secret features of regeneration which, although innumerable, a person knows scarcely anything about. From their early infancy to the last of their life in the world, and thereafter to eternity, the person who is in goodness is being born again every moment, not only as to their inner life, but also as to their outer, and this by amazing processes.” Secrets of Heaven §5202

“Good and truth are like seeds and the soil. Inner good is like seed that is productive, though not unless it is sown in good soil. Exterior good and truth are like the soil in which it is made productive....Facts and deeds are like the soil. When a person loves the facts that confirm what is good and true, and when he experiences joy in acting them out, those facts are seeds that are present and growing in the natural as the soil; and there they grow. As a result good is made fruitful and truth is multiplied, and they are constantly springing up out of that soil into the person’s rational mind and perfecting it.” Secrets of Heaven §3671

## FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus wants to teach and model the new way he is establishing of achieving a secure connection with God and other people. His hidden, inner efforts changed the way this connection happens. God's creative, sustaining life, his love, has always been the source and energy for our accomplishment of connection with God and others. Jesus restored the means for us to use God's love for our regeneration, for achieving that secure attachment with God.

The Lord's work is constant and regular, although hidden from our view. As Jesus repeatedly points out, God is establishing and maintaining his kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, with the same efforts and processes as we see in nature. Much of the process is hidden from our view, and happens without our effort.

It is easy to accept that we are not in control of the process of a plant's germination and growth. What is difficult is to accept is that we are also not in control of the process of our regeneration. For we do clearly see our efforts to improve ourselves, even if they are halting, irregular and repeated failures. We see ourselves being petulant, fretful, irritable, and impatient. And, when we read the Christian Scriptures, we do not see the inner success Jesus was having. All we see is his pain, tiredness, and despair at his disconnection from God.

This is why we despair at ever being good enough for the kingdom. Our fallen nature, our longing to establish a healthy, secure connection to God and other people, leads to temptation combats, when we are confronted with our false ideas and evil desires. And so we strive hard to change our ways. We bemoan the state of the world in us and around us, wishing life were easier, less stressful, less traumatic, less sad.

And then we listen to Jesus, and watch how he is doing the work, walking in the way. The Gospel of Mark shows us a simple model for our work. For instance, in Chapter 4 Jesus describes how we can prepare our minds to receive his love in the parable of the sower. And then he describes how the light of his truth will shine throughout our minds if we uncover it. These are our life's tasks: to observe what we do, watch for opportunities to act well and believe truly.

And then he describes how behind, or underneath, or within, all our efforts is the actual power, the substantial changes that are our healing. He teaches us that we need not fret over the operation of the process or try to add energy to it. God's love is all the energy that is needed, and

always accomplishes the healing of our spirits.

And Jesus models this for us. He is walking from town to town, relying on the hospitality of those who are buoyed by his optimism and calmed by his assurance. He says again and again, the kingdom we are seeking appears just like the grain. Sure, we have to prepare the soil. And yes, we need to find and protect the good seed. And yes, we have to plant it. Those are simple tasks, although at times arduous.

Just know this, Jesus is saying, there is life hidden in those seeds. Do not confuse your efforts with the power of love to accomplish the growth of your spirit to wholeness and fruitfulness. You will be frustrated and despair. Knowing and integrating the belief that God's love is constantly at work in the hidden processes of our natural and spiritual life is the hope that sustains us. We are to gather and protect the knowledge that God is in charge. We are to use our human ability to pay attention and accept his love as distinct from our ego and our efforts.

Perhaps an apt parable for our times is seeing the lowly dandelion break through concrete. Nothing humans can make will stop life expressing the power of love. The progress of the process of our healing begins small and is not sudden or cataclysmic. Love is urging us to see and accept it as our motivation for living. For we are created seeking connection – the connection of goodness with truth in our hearts and minds, and the connection between us and others, who give and receive love.

So follow the model that Jesus has given us. Know that the kingdom is growing in us and around us right now. Jesus' parable is not telling us to wait for a future kingdom. He is not pronouncing an indictment against today. His grace, his active, powerful love, is currently at work in your spirit. He is healing what separates goodness from truth in your mind. He is healing the rifts between people as secure connections develop. And the purpose of our creation, hidden in the depths of our souls, produces good fruit.

**Clark Echols, MDiv, PC**

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

Glendale New Church

Oct 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2 Dedication Day, 1861 6pm - Yoga	3 9:30am - Yoga	4 6pm - Yoga	5	6 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
7 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon	8	9 6pm - Yoga	10 9:30am - Yoga	11 6pm - Yoga	12	13 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
14 11am - NCoM Worship	15	16 6pm - Yoga	17 9:30am - Yoga 6pm - Yoga	18 5pm - Good Life Networks	19	20 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
21 11am - NCoM Worship	22	23 6pm - Yoga	24 9:30am - Yoga	25 6pm - Yoga	26	27 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
28 11am - NCoM Worship	29	30 6pm - Yoga	31 9:30am - Yoga	1	2	3

Glendale New Church

Nov 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1 6pm - Yoga	2	3 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
4 11am - NCoM Worship	5	6 6pm - Yoga	7 9:30am - Yoga	8 6pm - Yoga	9	10 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
11 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon 2pm - MKP Event	12	13 6pm - Yoga	14 9:30am - Yoga 6pm - Yoga	15 5pm - Good Life Networks	16	17 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
18 11am - NCoM Worship 12pm - GNC invited to	19	20 6pm - Yoga	21 9:30am - Yoga	22 11am - Thanksgiving 6pm - Yoga	23	24 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
25 11am - NCoM Worship	26	27 6pm - Yoga	28 9:30am - Yoga	29 6pm - Yoga	30	1

## *Schedule*

October 2018

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>10/7</b>	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am
<b>10/14</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>10/21</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>10/28</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

November 2018

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>11/4</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>11/11</b>	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am
<b>11/18</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>11/22</b>	Thanksgiving Day Family Service
<b>11/25</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 Work Party 12:30

*Please join us for worship!*

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**October 2018**