



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

The Precursor

November 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

Harvest Feast Sunday November 18th

The Harvest Feast time will be at 11:00 AM (not noon as previously posted) on November 18th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Fliers with sign up instructions will be out soon! As is our tradition, you and your families and friends are all invited – the church provides roast turkey and the rest of the meal is a giant potluck. Both the New Church of Montgomery and Glendale New Church congregations are included. Rev. Jenn Tafel from Lansing, Michigan will be leading a short worship service prior to sharing the meal.

FROM THE WORD

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). And a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!” Mark 4:35-41

This describes the inner state of people of the church when they are in what is natural and not yet in what is spiritual, in which state the natural affections, which are various desires springing from the loves of self and the world, rise up and agitate the mind. In this state the Lord appears to be absent; this apparent absence is meant by His being asleep. But when the person comes out of a natural into a spiritual state, these agitations cease, and there comes tranquility of mind. The Lord calms the stormy commotions of the natural mind of the person when the spiritual mind is opened, and through it the Lord flows into the natural.” Apocalypse Explained §514

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus models a reach for connection and the creation of a secure attachment when he says to his Apostles “Let’s get together in a boat and cross this dangerous lake.” His divinely sourced confidence knows that an experience of a parable will bring these men into a new stage of bond with him.

The storm that blows up, as is wont to do on the sea of

Galilee, is so bad that even these experienced sailors are terrified. It makes sense that in their fear they react with sarcasm, waking Jesus (who is asleep on the ship captain's cushioned seat!), yelling "You got us into this! Don't you care?"

Jesus effortlessly flattens the waves and calms the winds. And, as must have been startlingly obvious, it gets quiet. I imagine Jesus is able to speak in a low voice, and they all would hear his observation in the form of rhetorical questions, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Well, this is new! The parables and miracles recounted by Mark so far have all ended well. Even with praise for the good work. And yet note well: it makes absolute sense that this novel invitation to a deeper relationship feels scary. The experience that brought them to this realization was a threat to their existence. The menace of death revealed the underlying emotion that drove them, as it does all humans: fear.

The opposite of faith is fear. This has nothing to do with any doubts we have, or a lack of faith. Think of your trust in the person you love the most, who is most trustworthy. And remember a moment when that trust was threatened by some circumstance, some event, some word. Perhaps you got angry. But that was on the surface. Below the anger, if you can practice looking for it by calming the storming emotions, you will find fear; the fear of the loss of relationship.

For the Apostles, this enacted parable was the first time they realized that following Jesus may cost them their lives. And there is no clean resolution. They are left with an open question, still influenced by their fear: who is this man we are following? What is our relationship to him? Can we trust him?

This is an enacted parable. It has the same use of metaphor and has the hidden meaning that all his spoken parables have. But it now includes

an experience of the existential fear all humans have, regardless of the state of their faith. An important lesson: an agitated fear of death is a barrier to connecting with God and others.

As the simply observational language of the Heavenly Doctrine put it: "Natural affections, which are various desires springing from the loves of self and the world, rise up and agitate the mind. In this state the Lord appears to be absent; this apparent absence is meant by His being asleep." Of course we love our physical lives and living in the world! God created us with these natural desires. And when threatened, they will rise up and agitate us, befuddling our thinking and feeling.

The response of people who have faith, who have become spiritual, who have a secure attachment with God and other people, is new. The fear of death and loss is always in our minds, hearts and bodies; but our reaction can become another opportunity for new spiritual development.

The lesson of spiritual growth told in this story can be integrated only when it is experienced, when it is parabolically played out in our thoughts and feelings. Now, the very idea of experiencing the parable is frightening! So Jesus is teaching us that when we remember that his love is always present, urging and pressing us to live spiritual lives of inner connection to him and to other people, we feel again the peace that passes all understanding, for it overcomes all the agitating thoughts our fear generates.

The Lord invites us to sail with him through our living. Especially in times of trouble and turmoil. He is ready to steer our little boat through the stormy seas. He wants us to know he loves us unconditionally and constantly. Let us respond to his invitation to let go of fear and have faith in his love and wisdom. We will then experience our secure attachment, our eternal connection, with our Savior.

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

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 1:30pm - Bak wedding 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
4 11am - NCoM Worship	5	6 5:45pm - 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 5:45pm - Yoga	14 9:30am - Yoga	15 6pm - Yoga	16	17 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
18 11am - NCoM Worship 11:45am - GNC invited to	19	20 5:45pm - 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 5:45pm - Yoga	28 9:30am - Yoga	29 6pm - Yoga	30	1

Glendale New Church

Dec 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
2 11am - NCoM Worship 1pm - Glass Making Glass	3	4 5:45pm - Yoga	5 9:30am - Yoga	6 6pm - Yoga	7	8 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
9 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon	10	11 5:45pm - Yoga	12 9:30am - Yoga	13 6pm - Yoga	14	15 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
16 11am - NCoM Worship	17	18 5:45pm - Yoga	19 9:30am - Yoga 6pm - Yoga	20	21	22 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
23 11am - NCoM Worship	24	25 5:45pm - Yoga	26 9:30am - Yoga	27 6pm - Yoga	28	29 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Schedule

November 2018

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
11/4	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
11/11	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
11/18	NCOM worship @ 11:00 – Homecoming Dinner 12:00
11/25	NCOM worship @ 11:00 – Small Group Intro 1:00

December 2018

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
12/2	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
12/9	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
12/16	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
12/23	Christmas Worship Service @ 11:00:00
12/30	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

Please join us for worship!

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