



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

# The Precursor

March 2019

## 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

### Next Small Group experience:

The Path of Integrity

What kind of person do I want to be? What distracts me from my goal? Are my words and actions genuine? Do I treat others with compassion?

This seven session program will challenge participants to become a community of people committed to working together to become more honest with themselves and each other, to be kinder, to be more compassionate and to pursue their dreams.

The first session is a free workshop that introduces the program  
Sunday, May 5, 2019  
1-3 PM  
Cost: To be determined

## FROM THE WORD

Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?" Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family." And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. *Mark 6:1-6*

A person who [has not yet become a] spiritual person can still think rationally and so speak rationally. This is because a person's intellect can be raised into the light of heaven, which is truth, and see in that light, even though their will cannot in the same way be raised into the warmth of heaven, which is love, and be impelled to act by heavenly love....The fact that their intellect can be raised into heaven and not yet their will is what makes it possible for a person to be reformed and become spiritual; only when their will is raised as well are they then for the first time reformed and become spiritual. It is because of the ability of the intellect, above and beyond that of the will that even an evil person, can think rationally and so speak rationally, like a spiritual one. But they are still not a rational person, because the intellect does not lead the will, but the will leads the intellect. The intellect only informs and shows the way....When they are left to their own will or their own love, they throw aside the rational considerations of their intellect regarding God, heaven, and eternal life, and instead adopt views in harmony with their will's love, calling those ideas rational. *from Life §15*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Do we not expect those closest to us, who love us most deeply, to be the most supportive?? We consider such people friends and allies. We think that blood is thicker than water. Jesus wants us to discern when such ideas are actually merely natural and materialistic. Jesus wants us to see when our dependence on our own will, our own wishes, prevents the development of our faith in God, goodness and truth.

It makes me sad to read this story of a family break up. Of course, his

mother remained devoted to him for the rest of her life. But all the other family and friends rejected him, indeed, scoffed at him. They could have thought: “He is just big brother grown out of his station in life.” Their relationship – a matter of their will – prevented them from letting go of their old ideas of him. They missed the chance to be healed and saved.

Jesus was modeling the impact of healthy, securely attached relationships. At first it looks like the rejection of the command to “Honor father and mother.” It looks like the rejection of the ancient, traditional family structure. Jesus’ lament that a prophet is not honored by his own people was a well known saying. It tells the truth, clearly and cleanly. He is not being passive aggressive. He is working to connect his intellect and his will, his thoughts and his desires, so that they are both congruent, and spiritual, or heavenly.

As Jesus makes clear, however, it is not an either/or proposition. He is showing that one’s spiritual desires and spiritual faith have primacy over allegiance to family. Jesus has been preparing us (even as he went through his own development) for this realization. According to this Gospel, Jesus announced his intention at the very beginning. The first time he is quoted in the Gospel, Jesus says “The kingdom of God is near! Repent and believe the Good News!” So from the beginning, Jesus has proclaimed that repentance together with believing that the Messiah has come is the primary message. But in his hometown, all the people can see and hear is the boy raised as a carpenter from an inconsequential heritage.

This is the challenge: The Gospel is telling us that there is indeed a connection between the presence of the kingdom and the presence of Jesus. What do I have to believe, what ideas do I need to rely upon, if I am going to depend on the idea that Jesus is the Son of God, and so is the Divine Human since his ascension and glorification? Do I have to accept a mystery that cannot be rationally explained? Do I have to reject reason in favor of a blind faith? Wise people for more than a thousand years have been seeking resolution to this conundrum. And, as intriguing as that is, we are not entering into that conversation.

Rather, let us stay with our hypothesis that this story reveals a way that Jesus models a secure attachment with the people around him, and so also with us today. When my intellect is dependent on the idea that God is immanent, that divine love is in my soul and so in my heart, I am able to experience peace, serenity, wholeness, integrity, authenticity and

emotional intelligence.

This story reveals that good and true ideas lift us into a spiritual warmth and light that raises us out of the illusory and limited heat and light of our senses. This rising above our senses is not a superhuman ability. It is, however, the hero’s journey we all must take. In the story before us, Jesus begins as a common working man. Common and ordinary, too, are the inclinations to goodness and wisdom that he models for us, mixed in with all the other notions and experiences we have had, good and bad. Thus it is that by nature and nurture we are formed to be the adults we are. This is why we may not be able to detach from long-held desires and ideas which relieve our fear of being alone, or unloved but which harm ourselves and our relationships.

The Good News, Jesus tells us, is that there are among those emotions and thoughts, ones that connect us to heaven and to God. By first seeing them, and then acknowledging them as being the ones to cling to through all trial and tribulation, and therefore living according to those spiritual truths and loves, the love of God is present in our intellect where they may be experienced in our minds. With that truth comes the power of love, which can then be expressed in our minds when we let go of the merely natural ideas we have clung to. While certainly not a superhuman effort, it is a difficult journey.

Our task is to observe the thoughts and feelings that come into the “village” of our minds. With practice, all humans can notice when an idea or desire has taken on a meaning and power in our living. Every human, with more or less practice of living, observe the impact those thoughts and feelings have on ourselves, on others, and on our relationships. We can then discern which ones to honor as providing access to the power of spiritual love and truth. We can begin by observing the model Jesus provides for us. We will learn what it is to be securely attached to a person who loves us unconditionally and healthfully. He stays with us into the valleys of shame, despair, regret. And he carries us out of those dark times by loving us despite our evil errors. As we watch Jesus in this Gospel we will learn how to do that for others, too!

**Clark Echols, MDiv, PC**

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

Glendale New Church

Mar 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

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

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

## *Schedule*

March 2019

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>3/3</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>3/10</b>	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
<b>3/17</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>3/24</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>3/31</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

March 2019

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>4/7</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
<b>4/14</b>	Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
<b>4/21</b>	Easter Worship Service @ 11:00
<b>4/28</b>	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

***Please join us for worship!***

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**March 2019**