



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

The Precursor

May 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

We are hosting a small group, produced by Trillium Center for Small Group Experiences, starting with a free introduction on Sunday, May 5, at 1:30 All are welcome to join us

Next Small Group experience:

The Path of Integrity
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 introduction. Sunday, May 5, 2019 1-3 PM
Cost: To be determined

FROM THE WORD

Herod Antipas, the king, soon heard about Jesus, because everyone was talking about him. Some were saying, "This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead. That is why he can do such miracles." Others said, "He's the prophet Elijah." Still others said, "He's a prophet like the other great prophets of the past." When Herod heard about Jesus, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has come back from the dead."

For Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John as a favor to Herodias. She had been his brother Philip's wife, but Herod had married her. John had been telling Herod, "It is against God's law for you to marry your brother's wife." So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But without Herod's approval she was powerless, for Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him. Herod was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.

Herodias's chance finally came on Herod's birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee. Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests. "Ask me for anything you like," the king said to the girl, "and I will give it to you." He even vowed, "I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!"

She went out and asked her mother, "What should I ask for?" Her mother told her, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist!" So the girl hurried back to the king and told him, "I want the head of John the Baptist, right now, on a tray!"

Then the king deeply regretted what he had said; but because of the vows he had made in front of his guests, he couldn't refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner to the prison to cut off John's head and bring it to him. The soldier beheaded John in the prison, brought his head on a tray, and gave it to the girl, who took it to her mother. When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came to get his body and buried it in a tomb. Mark 6:14-29

"All the evils that we have a tendency toward from the day we are born are a lasting part of the will of our earthly self. When we allow ourselves to be influenced by these evils they flow into our thinking. Good things along with truths flow down into our thinking from above, from the Lord. In our thoughts the two are weighed against each other, like weights on a pair of scales. If we choose evil things, they are received by our old will and become part of it. If we choose good things along with truths, a new will and a new intellect are

formed by the Lord above our old will and our old intellect. Gradually over time, the Lord uses the truths that are in our new intellect to implant new forms of good on that higher level. Through these truths he also gains control over the evils that are below, moves them out of the way, and sets everything in order. This also makes it clear that our thought process purifies and excretes, so to speak, the evils that are resident in us from our heredity.”
True Christianity §659

FROM THE PASTOR

When Jesus sent the Twelve out, he became a public figure, attracting Herod’s attention. Herod knows full well who Jesus is, but he announces that the official story is that he is John the Baptist reincarnated. Why does he do this, reminding people of the stupid mistake he had made? As the saying goes, “It’s complicated.” We all know what is happening here. One part of us (the lower mind, tied to our body) is driven by ideas and desires that look and feel good and true for us. Another part of us (our higher mind, not tied to our body) sees those ideas and desires and knows they are wrong and feels disgust (with our own self!).

Herod is the thinking part of us that can hold good and bad ideas at the same time, strategizing how to keep the bad ideas that are pleasurable or self-serving intact, while also appearing to espouse the good ideas by keeping them alive (although actually imprisoned).

Our lower mind reacts to our reflection on our life by creating explanations for thinking and feeling the way we do so we can continue to defer to those selfish and materialistic ideas and desires. And we do this even though those bad ideas and desires continue to create problems in our lives. In fact, we repeatedly experience heartache at our missteps as we merely try to think our way out of the morass. Which is futile. Like Herod trying to control the narrative.

Herod’s story, like headlines in today’s media, are extreme, public examples of this process. Most of us only need to stop and calm our minds, take time to reflect, and catch this process happening hidden away in our inner lives. That is the task the Gospel writer is offering us. Jesus is a model of healthy mental development, and an example of secure attachment, while Herod reveals a common state of affairs for most of us. Will we follow the process of healing love of Jesus, or the justifying of Herod, never healing our hearts?

Of course, we fear the opinion of the crowd – the many ideas and desires that would maintain our

comfort and apparent security. Of course, we want power in our lives, and want to be in charge, even as Herod sought to be a king in Galilee. (Ironically, Herod Antipas was removed from leadership by the Romans precisely because of his poor leadership abilities!) Meanwhile, selfish desires are actually the power behind it all, even as Herodias was the power behind Herod’s throne. No good can ever actually be accomplished so long as selfishness rules.

God created a sacred dance in our spirit. A spirit of love and wisdom interacts with our five senses, creating joy and beauty in the outer world through our words and actions, and a delight in goodness and truth in our inner world. The dance can be profaned by selfishness and worldliness that seeks to have mere pleasure at the cost of authentic delight. When so directed, as the daughter was by the mother Herodias, all hell breaks loose!

Notice that all this happens when Jesus became a public figure. So, for us, when Jesus’ model of love and connection comes to our attention, we are encouraged to face our fears and repent. Perhaps we then begin every day with the thought that God is in fact equipping us with everything we need to copy his model of loving our lives and doing what is good for others. Perhaps we can intentionally bring to mind this cautionary tale of Herod, and be reminded of the trouble we bring upon ourselves if we listen to the crowd of voices in our heads warning us of unpleasantness in obeying the laws of love and faith. Whatever we take on as a spiritual discipline, God will be securing our connection to him through those higher, deeper thoughts that he inspires from within.

Eventually, as we are about to hear from Mark, we will be able to return from our journey – which perhaps is only a moment long as we use a true thought or good desire to guide us – enriched and empowered, feeling safer and more secure in God’s love for us. Our brains (part of the outer level of our life) will be more subject to the inner, spiritual part of our life, and so less likely to make our circumstance worse. This is the experience of a secure attachment, a close bond with our Creator, that will give us the strength and courage to love others without regard for our egos.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

513 284 1236

www.clarkechols.com

Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

Glendale New Church

May 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

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

Glendale New Church

Jun 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

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

Schedule

May 2019

| DATE | Worship Service (type and time) |
|-------------|--|
| 5/5 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |
| 5/12 | Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00 |
| 5/19 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |
| 5/26 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |

June 2019

| DATE | Worship Service (type and time) |
|-------------|---|
| 6/2 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |
| 6/9 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |
| 6/16 | Glendale New Church Day Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00 |
| 6/23 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |
| 6/30 | NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30 |

Please join us for worship!

Glendale New Church
845 Congress Ave
Glendale, OH 45246
(513) 772-1478
GlendaleNewChurch@gmail.com

May 2019