



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

The Precursor

Aug 2020

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our upcoming worship services will be outdoors with appropriate distancing. We will not have lunch.

The Love Over Ego small group is virtual and is being produced by our small group ministry, Trillium Small Group Experiences. Visit the website for registration.

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Thank you!

FROM THE WORD

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept it to themselves, but they often asked each other what he meant by "rising from the dead." Then they asked him, "Why do the teachers of religious law insist that Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?" Jesus responded, "Elijah is indeed coming first to get everything ready. Yet why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be treated with utter contempt? But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they chose to abuse him, just as the Scriptures predicted." Mark 9:2-12

"When a person undergoes regeneration, which is accomplished by the implantation of spiritual truth and good, and at the same time by the removal of falsity and evil, the regeneration is not hurried but takes place slowly. The reason for this is that all the things the person has thought, intended, or done since early childhood have entered into the composition of their life. They have also formed themselves into a network which is such that one cannot be moved without all of them together being moved....From this it is evident that the evils and falsities with a wicked person cannot be removed suddenly from where they are. They can be

removed only in the measure that forms of good and truths in their proper order have been implanted more deeply within the person. Heaven within a person removes hell. If the removal were done suddenly the person would pass out, for the whole network of things, every single one, would be thrown into confusion and deprive him of his life.” Secrets of Heaven §9334.

FROM THE PASTOR

As I grew up I learned that my world was safer if I insisted that I was right. To be sure, I was smart, and generally correct. As I became an adult and my rational mind developed, this world view created a network of beliefs about being right that became bound up with the feeling of being safe. I needed to be right, and I was thus arrogant. It took a number of strained and even broken relationships before I began to let go of that world view. And it took years – well into my adulthood – to actually develop a new set of beliefs that also maintained my sense of safety.

Jesus models two steps in the process of letting go of a hurtful belief. Once Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, the three men could get a glimpse of hidden transformation Jesus was going through. That is, they could actually see a new idea – Jesus is transforming himself and the universe – that could replace their erroneous one – that the Messiah was going to reestablish the Israelite nation. And the second step illustrated here is the work necessary to accept this new truth – a work that is always challenging, and sometimes life threatening (at least to our ego). The Good News we are given is that these two steps are life changing. Just as the three men were fundamentally changed – so much so that Jesus warned them that the others would not yet get it – so too, when we come down from the spiritually charged, emotionally high, experience of transformation, that old, dearly loved “truth” no longer has any place in our world view and has no power to sway us. As we return to our humdrum lives, there is very little we can share with those who have not seen what we have seen, or heard what we have heard in our hearts and minds.

Elijah and Moses appearing enlarge the message the Apostles received. And their appearance

in the story, as we are impacted by it, helps us expand our experience of the power of the reality and the symbolism of our personal truths. I held the truth about being right as real, and so I built structures in my mind to house and protect them (even as Peter wanted to build shelters). Then there is the symbolism of these particular men appearing of the beginning and climax of their heritage. And the voice challenges their entire world view.

The lesson Jesus is offering is that our minds really have power in their structure, and that every idea is a symbol propping up that reality. We collect ideas, and they begin to stand for our reality. To challenge the idea is to challenge our being and our ego.

It requires transformative experiences for us to hear the message: we are not to hold on to our “truths.” And even though we feel our lives are threatened, there is a third way. As the voice instructed, it is Jesus himself – listen to him, not your fearful reactions to the destruction of your world view.

We are being asked to loosen our dependence on what we hold as true, as if having it as our truth is the foundation of our life. We are being offered a covenant: a relationship that, in my personal experience, means that I must give at least equal weight to the voice of others and their truths. And we are able to then realize that the frame of our world view – the rules and the predictions based on them – are not sufficient to save us and bring us into heavenly joy.

No wonder Peter was afraid. No wonder he had pushed back. There is a part of us that experiences an existential threat when a bright light shines in our minds and reveals another reality, a new covenant, asking us to let go of our truth and our solipsistic world view. The work modeled for us here is to cultivate hope in the promise of a new world of joy and peace.

Our world is made safe when we have this secure connection to our God who is for us the real and symbolic source of love, wisdom and life. Jesus models this connection. So let us hear him!

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

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

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Schedule

August 2020

| DATE | Worship Service (type and time) |
|-------------|--|
| 8/2 | Work Party any time |
| 8/9 | Glendale New Church Worship Service @ 11:00 am |
| 8/16 | Work Party any time |
| 8/23 | Work Party any time |
| 8/30 | Work Party any time |

September 2020

| DATE | Worship Service (type and time) |
|-------------|--|
| 9/6 | Work Party any time |
| 9/13 | Glendale New Church Worship Service @ 11:00 am |
| 9/20 | Work Party any time |
| 9/27 | Work Party any time |

Keep calm and carry on!

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Glendale, OH 45246
(513) 772-1478
GlendaleNewChurch@gmail.com

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