



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

The Precursor

September 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

WORSHIP, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 11AM

Our worship service will again be outdoors in the back of the church. Please wear a mask and bring your own chair if you want something more comfortable than the folding chairs.

Trillium Small Group Experiences will be offering the small group "Practicing Forgiveness," beginning on Monday, October 19 for 6 sessions. Check out our website for details.

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Thank you!

FROM THE WORD

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. "What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked. One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer." Mark 9:14-29

Jesus said: "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" and he was healed (Mark 9:23-25). There were three reasons why faith in the Lord healed people. First, because there was an acknowledgment of His Divine omnipotence, and that He was God. Second, because faith consists of an acknowledgment and the intuition that then comes to mind. All such intuition, from acknowledgment [of another person], causes them to be present [in one's heart and mind] It was this intuition, from an acknowledgment of the Lord's power to heal, which was their faith. The third reason [the Lord healed

people] is that all the diseases healed by the Lord represented and thus symbolized the spiritual diseases that correspond to these natural diseases. And spiritual diseases can be healed only by the Lord, and in fact by looking to His Divine power, and by repentance of life. This is why He sometimes said, "Your sins are forgiven; go and sin no more" The faith by which [our] spiritual diseases are healed by the Lord can be given only through truths from the Word and a life according to them.
Apocalypse Explained 815:5

FROM THE PASTOR

Faith – truth lived by – brings power. Whenever I feel powerless I can ask myself “What beliefs am I living right now?” For instance, when my partner challenges my idea of the right action to take, and I begin to argue, in that moment, I have the opportunity to stop and observe what belief I am at that moment living. I often notice that I am being compelled to argue by a fear of being wrong, of not being in control of the narrative. My brain and body remember being hurt when I was not in control of determining what was the “right” action. And so I argue when someone challenges my truth.

I completely get how the Apostles were stumped by their inability to heal the epileptic boy. They had a certain belief system, and it interfered with their power over the evil spirit that wracked the boy. Swedenborg and other careful observers point out that Jesus’ power was not transferable, but that others could wield the power if their faith supported it. And that faith was a real trust that took over the person’s belief system so that all their truth was the divine truth, such as that embodied by Jesus Christ. And it is normal for me, like the Apostles, to lose that trust.

This faith is illustrated in the following thought experiment. Imagine Jesus is walking on a tightrope stretched across a chasm pushing a wheelbarrow. I have faith that he can walk back and forth effortlessly, perfectly, even doing cartwheels! Next imagine Jesus on the tightrope with a wheelbarrow, and you are in it. This is trust! I have faith in my partner to do the right thing. I trust my partner when I put my desires and beliefs into their control. Every time I expose my heart and mind to someone, they could harm me in a number of ways. They could steal the joy I have; they could defeat my desires; they could effectively lie to me; and so forth.

Jesus was the divine truth, embodying the divine love. This is why he had complete faith – full

trust – in the divine. He had an experience of the divine that you and I can never have, because he was the “Son of God,” the actual embodiment of God. This is the only way I can understand not only the stories of the Gospels, and the stories of people healed by God, but my own story of healing by faith – when truths are lived and they effectively bring me peace and joy.

And Jesus models the trust that creates a secure attachment between people. There are times I am on the mountain and see deeply and powerfully the entire scope of faith and trust. Beginning with the ancient principles symbolized by Moses, through the process of suffering that builds trust symbolized by Elijah, to the culmination of bright, pure, salvific faith symbolized by Jesus. At those moments, I get it. I do not suffer. I do not worry. I do not need to be right.

And then I come down off the mountain into my normal living. Physical, mental and emotional circumstances draw my attention away from my inner, empowered self. And I forget that I have power. I lose track of the process of trust – of opening myself up in relationships and accepting the vagaries of life without resistance.

Our task is to remember. And this Gospel story helps us. We are given an image to grip our attention. We are offered a model to emulate. We will confront the harsh reality that when we do live our truth, and lack trust, we will be powerless. We will feel condemned. What we love and aspired to taunts us, just out of reach. The suffering will break our hearts. The lack of control will terrify us; like the threat of being thrown into a fire.

So we create a daily practice for ourselves. A prayer life, if you will. We spend some time every day intentionally remembering the mountain. Reconnecting to our inner, spiritual trust that is a gift of the divine love and truth. Invoking Jesus’ name will remind us of the ultimate sacrifice that authentic faith leads to. And we will be buoyed by hope knowing the peace, joy and power we will gain, experiencing the connection of love with God, a secure attachment.

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1 5:45pm - Yoga	2 Dedication Day, 1861	3 10am - Yoga
4	5	6 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	7 7:30am - Yoga	8 5:45pm - Yoga	9	10 10am - Yoga
11 11am - Worship with	12	13 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	14 7:30am - Yoga	15 5:45pm - Yoga	16	17 10am - Yoga
18	19 7pm - Practicing	20 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	21 7:30am - Yoga	22 5:45pm - Yoga	23	24 10am - Yoga
25	26 7pm - Practicing	27 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	28 7:30am - Yoga	29 5:45pm - Yoga	30	31 10am - Yoga

Schedule

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

October 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
10/4	Work Party any time
10/11	Glendale New Church Worship Service @ 11:00 am
10/18	Work Party any time
10/25	Work Party any time

Keep calm and carry on!

Glendale New Church
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