



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

The Precursor

January 2021

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

FROM THE WORD

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Do not stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16

Let little children come to Me, do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Mark 10:14) Here, “little children” means those who are in innocence. Good is good to the extent that it has innocence in it, because all good is from the Lord, and to be led by the Lord is innocence.... Innocence is the essence of all good...[And] wisdom is wisdom in the measure of the character it derives from innocence. The same is true of love, charity, and faith...No one can enter heaven unless they possess innocence. Marriage Love §414

FROM THE PASTOR

As I reflect on my reach for a secure connection with my God, I confront my desire for independence, my resistance to being told what to do and believe. I am among the many people who have experienced being harmfully manipulated. I have a sensitivity to being dependent upon another person. My relationship with my wife has taught me how to be lovingly moved to action and attitude because I am secure in that relationship – I have a deeply set belief that she loves me. And so I feel safe in being interdependent with her.

It is hard to imagine how insecure life was for people 2000 years ago under Roman rule. And then there was the more or less unconscious helplessness felt by most of the people because they had no chance of obeying all 600+ laws the church said a good

person obeyed. And then Jesus appears on the scene, offering people a courageous stance and freedom from manipulation. While many people resisted his call, and even wanted to stop him, many more responded to his reach for a secure connection with them. They would beg him to heal them. And parents would bring their children to him for a blessing.

I let go for a moment of my need for independence, and consider what Jesus means about being like a child. A child actually is completely dependent on their caregivers. The child has no resistance to receiving all that they need. Everything they have is a gift, a blessing, that brings joy and satisfaction (for as long as their attention lasts!). The child does not have any sense of needing to earn the gift of love and sustenance. The child does not have any thought of being in control, and so lets go and moves on easily and quickly.

It takes us all continued effort and attention to be like a child in our relationships. Of course we have to be discerning. Of course we have to take care of ourselves. And then, when we are giving our love to another, and receiving it from them, there is a willingness to give and receive, unhindered by considerations or need for merit. That ease is called innocence. And it is the innocence – the willingness to be dependent – that is symbolized by the child Jesus took in his arms and blessed.

Our task is to look for this safe connection with others. With some, the connection is superficial, with others, very deep. Our search for engagement with others prepares us to experience our relationship with our God as a child with a loving parent. We receive the gift of life without resistance and with joy. And we use that life by flowing with it, unhindered by fear of loss or scarcity.

I imagine the Apostles were humbled and delighted in the same moment. Their hearts and minds open in a new way by the

presence of the divine love speaking to them, looking at them with love, even though moments before there was a fire in his eyes, urging them to stop and listen and look. When Jesus blessed the child, I imagine the men's hearts exploding with joy as they also received the blessing. Perhaps it was only a moment the men would soon forget it. However, it is a model for us all to do the inner work of contemplation and relationship building. While requiring dependence, and repeated failure, we will experience the joy of innocence and all the blessings that come with it. And we will have the kingdom of heaven here and now.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

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

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

Schedule

January 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
1/3	Work Party any time
1/10	11:00 am – Online Worship
1/17	Work Party any time
1/24	Work Party any time
1/31	Work Party any time

February 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
2/7	Work Party any time
2/14	11:00 am – Online Worship
2/21	Work Party any time
2/28	Work Party any time

Keep calm and carry on!

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