



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

The Precursor

December 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

We will safely gather on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5 PM for a reverent, joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord! While we will not sing, we will pray together and share the story!

Our monthly worship will continue to be by video.

FROM THE WORD

Then Jesus left Capernaum and went down to the region of Judea and into the area east of the Jordan River. Once again crowds gathered around him, and as usual he was teaching them. Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?" Jesus answered them with a question: "What did Moses say in the law about divorce?" "Well, he permitted it," they replied. "He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away." But Jesus responded, "He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts. But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. This explains why a 'man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."

Later, when he was alone with his disciples in the house, they brought up the subject again. He told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery." Mark 10:1-12

The union of the good and the true finds its origin in the Lord's divine love for everyone in the heavens and on earth. Divine good emanates from this divine love, and divine good is accepted by angels and by us in divine truths, truth being the only vessel for the good....To the extent that true elements are united to what is good within us, then, we are united to the Lord and heaven. This is the actual source of marriage love, which means that it is the actual matrix for the inflow of the Divine.... When one partner wants or loves what the other does, then there is a freedom for both, because all freedom stems from love. However, there is freedom for neither one when [the reach for] control comes in the door, [and their] minds are not united but severed. Control subjugates, and a subjugated mind either has no purpose or is of opposite purpose. If it has no purpose it has no love, and if it is of opposite purpose

there is hatred in the place of love. Heaven and Hell §§371, 380

FROM THE PASTOR

Have you ever found yourself in a “lose/lose” situation? An example would be when someone is trying to make you look wrong and they ask a trick question. Like, “When did you stop lying to me?” Or, “How can I trust you anymore?” Or, “When is it okay to steal?” Any answer can be held against you. And especially so if they demand a yes/no, or simple answer.

Here is the resolution: a person who cares about you does not ask such questions. A loved one does not try to trap you unless their hearts have been wounded by a traumatic experience. A person seeking understanding does not ask questions which complicate the answer.

We are investigating how Jesus is modeling a secure attachment with the Father and with people. He certainly asks challenging questions (“What did Moses say in the law?”), but he never tries to trick anyone. He never sets up a lose/lose scenario. He regards every single person as a child of God, a human being. He never disparages or dismisses those who fear him or those who are acting from evil intent.

I have tried to live this model and failed at times. I have realized after the fact that I indeed had a hidden agenda to win the argument or force the person to agree with me. There have been other attempts which failed not because of my ego but because the other person did not want a relationship, and did not accept my gift of unconditional love.

We know how it ended for Jesus. He was murdered for loving unconditionally. So we rightly fear, if not for our lives, certainly for our reputation or our life’s mission. Our task is thus to practice connecting to others through truth and love, so that when we are challenged we will not be trapped by the trick question. Instead we will, like Jesus, go the heart of the matter and focus on the foundational principles upon which we live.

Jesus makes no attempt to answer the “when

is it allowable to divorce” trick question. Instead he challenges them to look to the reason for marriage and the principle underlying it. He is saying that people who love each other are those who experience a secure attachment, a mutual desire to be connected, and so eternal happiness and the fulfillment of the Creator’s intention for them. If one of them walks away from that engagement, it is because the love and truth in their hearts and minds have become detached from each other. What they love and what they believe are no longer synched, no longer united in the effort to be a good person.

“From creation,” we are wired to connect to, and even unite with, another human being. It begins with the experience of a mother and her child, and then of the child and siblings, and even of a child and their pet or toy. As we develop as human beings, our experience of relationship matures and becomes deeper – spiritual. If a child is emotionally wounded by trauma, then healing is necessary before they can feel safe and secure in their relationships. Their truth and good are “divorced.”

Jesus wants us to be spiritual people, engaged in secure connections. So he models stepping back from sad and disordered circumstances and look for the principles of life that maintain the “marriage” of goodness and truth in our hearts and minds. God’s care for his creation always maintains the possibility for our growth, our spiritual development. This is symbolized by Jesus now heading to the south and to Jerusalem – a deepening of the exploration, and coming closer to the core of the human experience. From merely external – what shall I eat, etc., to what are healthy relationships, and what is the special unity of husband and wife.

We prepare for this journey by mindfully considering how we are joining goodness and truth in our minds and hearts. Are we believing in love? Are we loving the truth? How do I cultivate a trust in the Divine and the flow of love through my soul into my mind and body? Dependence on the reception of love and wisdom will create an experience of safety, so that I can rise above the traps and the tricks and the illusions that are part of living in this world. Let us consider how Jesus did this and model our lives after his example of secure attachment.

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Kempton Project

A New Church translation of the Sacred Scripture

Each word in the Sacred Scripture is like a precious stone given to us by the Lord, each phrase and verse is like a jewel. The words are beautifully arranged to reflect and transmit the light of heaven from within. The more a translation reflects this arrangement and beauty, the more the glory of the Lord can be seen. There are aspects of the Letter of the Word that cannot truly be brought into what is called Standard English, but a translation faithful to the original text in the light of the Heavenly Doctrine can convey to the English reader what the Lord has revealed to man.

It is with this hope that the editors of the Kempton Project offer again a translation of the Sacred Scripture to the New Church. This translation is even more thoroughly and carefully revised, keeping in mind the fullness, holiness and power, by which the Word serves the eternal purpose of conjoining heaven and earth, together with the Lord.

This new edition of the New Church translation of the Word, which has been out of print for about eight years, should arrive from the printer in mid-November and be available as a Christmas gift.

It comes in a more comfortable size than the edition that was offered in 2011. This new edition is 1½" thick and 7" x 9", which allows us to keep the large 13 point type that so many have appreciated.

The book is a red cloth hardcover volume, at the price of \$35.00 US, plus shipping. We also expect to make available a limited quantity of leather-covered volumes. Please check our website for pricing and other information.

<https://kemptonproject.org/TheWord>

You can also order by e-mail, by phone, or by mail.

Email: TheWord@kncs.org

Phone: 1-215-938-8663

Mail: Kempton Project, 1050 Mountain Road, Kempton, PA 19529.

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

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

Schedule

December 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
12/6	Work Party any time
12/13	Work Party any time
12/20	Work Party any time
12/24	5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
12/25	<i>Christmas!</i>
12/27	Work Party any time

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

Keep calm and carry on!

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