



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

The Precursor

July 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be having our Annual Society Meeting on Sunday, August 8th. You will hear more about it, but your presence is encouraged!

The regular worship service starts at 11:00am, followed by Holy Supper, and then the Annual Meeting (during a light lunch).

FROM THE WORD

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' just say, 'The Lord needs it and will return it soon.'" The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it. Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!" So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples. Mark 11:1-11

Human beings have been so formed from creation that they can be joined more and more closely with the Lord...From creation and so from birth every person has in them three discrete degrees or degrees of height. A person comes into the first degree, called the natural degree, when they are born. This degree grows in them through a continuous progression until they become rational. They come into the second degree, called the spiritual degree, if they live according to spiritual laws of order, which are Divine truths. And they come into the third degree, called the celestial degree, if they live according to celestial laws of order, which are Divine goods. These degrees are opened actually in a person by the Lord according to their life in the world, but not perceptibly or sensibly until after their departure from the world. As they are opened and then perfected, the person is joined more and more closely with the Lord. The human condition and the manner of a person's elevation and approach to the Lord cannot be understood without a knowledge of these degrees. Divine Providence §32

FROM THE PASTOR

I am experimenting with the notion that Jesus manifested what we now call "secure attachment." This is achieved when I have a clear sense of my self, my abilities, my weaknesses, my desires, and my world view. And because of

that I can interact with all sorts of people without becoming dysregulated, which is becoming angry, defensive, guilty, or humiliated. The stories in the Gospel of Mark describe how Jesus models this way of being. Jesus had a divine soul, did miracles, and taught life-saving truth, which explains the power behind the man. I am suggesting that, two thousand years later, he heals us by showing us how to become securely attached to him. The story of his final entry into Jerusalem has details about how fully opening our mind to his love and wisdom – by aligning our natural, rational, spiritual and celestial degrees into a functional whole – heals us and saves us.

The Apostles and the people of the city who welcomed Jesus, all thought he was coming to conquer. The style of his entry was that of a king, as indeed Jesus is King. However, the people's expectations were that the king was coming to war against the Romans (and perhaps the corrupt religious leadership). That incorrect expectation inevitably led to disappointment and an abandonment which (only apparently) led to Jesus' "failure" and death.

This leads me to ask, on the road to my healing and transformation what do I expect? Typically I expect a struggle, even a fight. And I have fear that I must deal with. My ego, and all of my "natural degree," resists being influenced by others. And there is an automatic reaction – I feel a threat to my worth, or my even my life, and so I fight against it. It is true that life here always includes suffering. But what if Jesus is modeling a different way to addressing the threat? Might it be that I can experience a gift of peaceful influence of my thoughts and emotions? Jesus is suggesting we try the humility of riding the donkey rather than battle horse.

From his secure attachment with his divine soul, Jesus does not need to impose his will or his way of thinking upon us. Rather, his influence is an invitation for people to have an experience of his wisdom and love. And so he sends two Apostles to find the donkey. What he tells them to do is ordinary and makes sense: they are to go into the city and be attentive and expect right away to see a young donkey tied up. When it happens, the reader may assume that Jesus performed a miracle. Perhaps he did predict what was going to happen, and even provide for it (some have noted that Jesus had been in the city many times, and perhaps prearranged the password "The Lord has need of it," with a trusted friend!). I read this story as a model of my natural degree participating in the way it was designed to in

the transformation of my spirit.

Jesus knows that if I am going to be transformed by his sure and trustworthy guidance, I have to experience it by my own exploration. I have to accept it by participating in its truth and effectiveness. The wisdom and love then become mine, while being a gift from the Lord. My "natural degree" needs to be in charge, making decisions, and being in action. I am reminded that people skilled in some action (like swinging a golf club) have done the action so many times that they have a "muscle memory" which they rely on. This is also true for our natural mind. When we "walk the walk," our mind learns not only the basic steps, but experiences the flow of love as we implement a truth (which we have stored in our "rational degree"). When our natural mind applies a rational or spiritual truth to its thinking and acting, the natural mind is transformed by the flow of divine love and wisdom.

The donkey is not a noble beast. Yet it has a number of very important qualities that make it of eminent use: low to the ground, strong back and legs, stamina, and more. So too, our natural mind, while of limited use, is vital to our operating as a human being. For instance, our deepest desire to be charitable experiences its fullest expression when our arms and legs do our heart's bidding. Our bodies will never be transformed. But our spirit is when love and wisdom flow through us into the world, creating secure attachments with other people, and eventually, God.

A donkey can be obstinate. So too, our natural degree is designed to hold onto an idea, or a way of being, and not let it go. This characteristic of our natural mind means that once we learn to walk, we can use it consistently through time to achieve more important goals. Our expertise at living in this world is often achieved through painful experience. The earliest experience is often being reprimanded (or even spanked!) by one upon whom we depend for life. A later experience is when we hurt someone's feelings with mean words and we lose a friendship. Those painful experiences train our natural mind to welcome the influence of our rational, and spiritual, and eventually celestial, degrees. By letting go of our obstinate grasp of our merely natural world view, our natural and spiritual self are connected, and we are transformed into a whole human being.

Jesus here models the humility that a well-developed human being will manifest along the road to transformation. We know that suffering is ahead of us. That our ego will fight against its impending death. Developing a secure attachment style, based on trust of our deeper, higher natures (and so on our trust of God!), will serve to carry us through, even to the ultimate transformation of a full connection with God.

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

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

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

Schedule

July 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
7/4	Work Party - any time
7/11	11:00 am – Online Worship
7/18	Work Party - any time
7/25	Work Party any time

August 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
8/1	Work Party - any time
8/8	11:00 am –Worship and Holy Supper Service (& Society Meeting)
8/15	Work Party - any time
8/22	Work Party - any time
8/29	Work Party - any time

Keep calm and carry on!

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