



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

The Precursor

September 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

Worship services on 9/12 and 10/10 will be online. Contact Pastor Clark for details.

Something Wonderful
Art Show will take place at the Glendale New Church on Saturday, 9/11 from 10am to 4pm.
To benefit Bethany House.

FROM THE WORD

When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.” When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching. That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.

Again they entered Jerusalem. As Jesus was walking through the Temple area, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to him. They demanded, “By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right to do them?” “I’ll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question,” Jesus replied. “Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human? Answer me!” They talked it over among themselves. “If we say it was from heaven, he will ask why we didn’t believe John. But do we dare say it was merely human?” For they were afraid of what the people would do, because everyone believed that John was a prophet. So they finally replied, “We don’t know.” And Jesus responded, “Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.” Mark 11:15-19, 27-33

Knowledge [is intended to] bring our outer being into contact with our inner being, and when this happens, our study of [knowledge] has served its true purpose. The inner self, after all, concerns itself only with that which is useful....When we start to put our delight in bare learning, however, it is a bodily desire that carries us away. Insofar as it carries us away—insofar as we find pleasure in mere learning—so far we remove ourselves from heaven, and so far the facts we know shut themselves off from the Lord, to partake of the material world. On the other hand, insofar as we acquire facts for some useful purpose—for the sake of human society, of the Lord’s church on earth, of the Lord’s kingdom in the heavens, or (most especially) of the Lord himself—so much more do they open up....Knowledge is inherently such that if [a person is] carried away by the naked desire for learning religious concepts, they would grow indifferent to any heavenly dimensions and care only for the knowledge itself. And they would then be robbed of this knowledge by the craving to acquire it. from Secrets of Heaven §1472

FROM THE PASTOR

I admire people who can absorb, retain, and recall facts. I am not as gifted at it as I would like to be. Sometimes I feel badly about myself because I do not have this skill well developed. And so there are times when I withhold the wisdom I do have because I have the feeling that I am not good enough.

See what happened there? I start with a negative comparison of myself with others. And then I entertain a judgment about myself based on that comparison. And that produces an emotion – fear – which then robs me of the opportunity to be useful. Likely you have your version of this process. It is a common human trait. And Jesus specifically addresses it in the way he treats the people who had turned what was intended as a sacred space in the temple courtyard into a thoroughfare and a market. He overturns their tables and tells them to leave! He invites us to do the same in our own hearts and minds.

Another example: Have you ever experienced the realization that a group you have belonged to for a long time has an erroneous view of the world? Maybe it is your family. Maybe it is a social club. Maybe it is a professional organization. It can be cognitively and emotionally staggering. Likely you sought some way to maintain the long-held point of view. If you look carefully and gently into your own heart, you may find a fear of chaos that you believe the change is causing. In fact, it will take what is called a “conscious shock” for you to change your belief. Maybe some charismatic, bold and wise upstart shows up in the midst of your group and disrupts its smooth operation.

Here is a powerful description of the circumstance Jesus confronted, and that we can see in our own minds: “Clearly our assumptions control us, even when they are utterly false. All our knowledge and our sophistry bolster these assumptions, drawing together endless supporting arguments that harden us in our false ideas. If we seize, then, on the premise that we will believe nothing until we see and understand it, we will never be able to believe anything. Spiritual and heavenly concepts remain beyond the range of our eyesight, beyond the grasp of our imagination. The proper method is to learn wisdom from the Lord, that is, from his Word. Then all goes well, and in addition light is shed on our rational thinking and factual knowledge. By no means, you see, is the acquisition of knowledge forbidden. Knowledge is useful for our lives, and pleasurable. For a believer no

prohibition exists on thinking and speaking the way the well-educated of the world do. But we are to do so on the principle of belief in the Lord's Word and of using earthly truth to confirm spiritual and heavenly truth so far as we can, using language familiar to the academic world. The Lord, not ourselves, must be the source of our principles. This is life; the other way is death.” (Secrets of Heaven §129)

The task before us is to be mindful of what our more external, worldly mind is believing. The skill that Jesus encourages us is, first, to develop a sense of the difference between our inner life and our outer life. And then to assess our outer thinking based on inner spiritual principles. For me it is watching my outer need to be right, reigning that need in when it threatens a relationship. I have learned to be honest and gentle with myself. When I feel a threatened by someone's different idea or way of being, I now know to look at my external assumptions and hold them lightly while I review the spiritual principles I want to live by.

This takes practice. Jesus models that practice for us. When challenged by an authoritative voice, a mind I respect, a member of my group, instead of using my own ego force to push back, I instead pause and ask a question. What is the assumption being made here? What is the principle being advanced? If I don't get a good answer, then I will humbly continue in my own view.

I am learning that I can be secure in Jesus' love for me by noticing that the way of being he models manifests the spiritual principles we all want to rule in the world. The opportunity before us is: to humbly acknowledge when we are wrong; to love others without conditions; and to act to bring justice to the world; to gift our wisdom to all; and to do purposeful work. To do these things feels good and allays our fears because they connect us to the source, the creative divine love and the enlightening divine wisdom. This connection makes us feel safe to be our authentic selves in the world. And the temple within our minds and hearts will continue to connect us to our God.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2 6pm - Yoga	3 5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	4 10am - Yoga
5 11am - Worship - Rev.	6	7 5:45pm - Yoga	8	9 6pm - Yoga	10 5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	11 10am - Art Show 10am - Yoga
12 11am - No NCoM Service 11am - Online Worship 7:30pm - ES Study	13	14 5:45pm - Yoga	15	16 6pm - Yoga	17 5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	18 10am - Yoga
19 11am - Worship - Rev.	20	21 5:45pm - Yoga	22	23 6pm - Yoga	24 5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	25 10am - Yoga
26 11am - No NCoM Service 7:30pm - ES Study	27	28 5:45pm - Yoga	29	30 6pm - Yoga	1	2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	Dedication Day, 1861 10am - Yoga
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11am - Association Sunday		5:45pm - Yoga		6pm - Yoga	5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	10am - Yoga
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11am - No NCoM Service 11am - Online Worship 7:30pm - ES Study		5:45pm - Yoga		8am - Ncom bd mtg 6pm - Yoga	5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	10am - Yoga
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11am - Worship - Guest		5:45pm - Yoga		6pm - Yoga	5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	10am - Yoga 2pm - Stalbaum/McFarland
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11am - No NCoM Service 7:30pm - ES Study		5:45pm - Yoga		6pm - Yoga	5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	10am - Yoga
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
11am - Worship						

Schedule

September 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
9/5	Work Party - any time
9/12	11:00 am – Online Worship
9/19	Work Party - any time
9/26	Work Party any time

October 2021

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

Keep calm and carry on!

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