



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

# The Precursor

October 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

If it is provident, we will meet in our Sanctuary for Worship on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Work Party!

Saturday, October 30 from 10am to 2pm. Chili for Lunch! (rain date is Sunday). There are lots of ways to be useful depending on what you like to do (planting, painting, sweeping, etc)

## FROM THE WORD

Then Jesus began teaching them with stories: “A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head. The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ But the tenant farmers said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard.

“What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others. Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures?

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.  
This is the Lord’s doing,  
and it is wonderful to see.’”

The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away. Mark 12: 1-12

“It is of Divine order that a person act in freedom in accordance with his reason, since to act in freedom in accordance with one's reason is to act of oneself. However, these two faculties of freedom and reason are not properly a person's own, but are the Lord's in them....The Lord loves people and wills to dwell with them, but he cannot love them and dwell with them unless he is received and loved in return. This and nothing else brings about a bond with him. It was for this reason that the Lord gave humans freedom and reason – the freedom to think and will as though of oneself, and the reason to do so rationally. It is impossible to love someone and be conjoined with them without any reciprocity on their part, and neither is it possible to enter into someone and dwell with them without any receptivity in them. Since the receptivity and reciprocity in a person come from the Lord, therefore the Lord says, ‘Abide in Me, and I in you.’ (John 15:4).....Thus the Lord dwells in what is from him in a person, and the person dwells in what they have from the

## FROM THE PASTOR

Our premise is that Jesus’ words and actions are manifesting his psychological development of a secure attachment with his Father and his Apostles. He models how we can achieve a view of ourselves that is healthy, interdependent, loving and secure in our relationship with God and other people. We now come to the last week of Jesus’ time on earth, and he is daily teaching in the Temple in Jerusalem. He is actively preparing for his death and resurrection. There are no healing miracles or uplifting stories.

We come to a Chapter 12 which is entirely stories that challenge the religious leaders. Every argument against Jesus and his teaching that one of them puts forward becomes an opportunity for Jesus to reveal the spiritual reality hidden underneath their superficial religiosity. He challenges the status quo by revealing an authentic spirituality. Jesus even demonstrates that there is deep spirituality in the ancient texts of the Hebrew scriptures.

How does Jesus model an authentic, secure life in these stories? Are we to be proactive in addressing societal ills, calling out our leaders for their ineptitude, hypocrisy and corruption?

Backing up a bit, it may be key to notice that Jesus is not making theological arguments. He is calling out a selfish, worldly way of living. Jesus is revealing a world view, a spiritual attitude and way of being. Jesus is telling us not so much that we have to be proactive, but that we have to discover and adopt an attitude of interdependence, trust, respect – of love for our fellow human beings.

This story describes this spiritual reality. The “owner” (God) has built a vineyard, with all that is required for it to be productive. Spiritually, God has created a life for us to live in. He has then “moved away” so that we are actually free to run our own lives. Of course, it is still his life in us. In a very real sense, it is not ours, even though we are completely responsible for its productivity. And we reap real joy and satisfaction from working in our lives. God has set up the boundaries, the rules, in which our life works and works well, as we live it.

And marvelously, we are not blind or merely instinctual participants in God’s life! God has given us the human ability to observe ourselves, and see all of our life, and see it in context of all existence, and so own it. We can experience the greatest degree of freedom, joy, and satisfaction. We can live with, in, and from an attitude of abundance and grace. All

because God has created this life, and because we are participating in the fruitfulness of his garden.

To be secure in our relationship with God and other people means that we do not need to be in control of the process. We do not need to be in charge of the productivity. We will not be overwhelmed by fear, because the very cornerstone of all our living is a trust that God is caring for our spiritual, eternal lives, regardless what happens to us in time and space.

We have experienced – indeed are experiencing in the pandemic – real challenges to this attitude and way of being. The shadow of the blessing of being given a role in God’s life is the possibility of taking it on as our own. For instance, I often worry about the welfare of my children. So I may seek to extend my control of their actions and choices into their adulthood to keep them safe. However, that harms, and may even kill, their own ownership of their part in God’s life. My child will eventually reject this anxiously insecure reach I am making, and in so doing, reject me.

Or I may justifiably worry about my health. An attitude of abundance, grace, and spiritual and eternal life will allow me to continue to be productive. I will continue to experience the joy of owning my life as a gift from God. However, when I seek to extend my ownership to the circumstances and people around me, who have their own processes and lives, from a false thought that by controlling them I remain safe, I will harm, and may even kill, the relationship I have with the physical world and other people.

Our task is to continue the work that Jesus has been modeling. I welcome his care for me, offering the bounty of my life to God and other people with joy and freedom because I know that God is the actual owner. I live as though I am going to live forever, have abundance, and thrive in interdependence with God and others. And I can do this because I have cultivated a secure attachment with God and other people. That the work of my whole life – that life within that which infills my passion for creativity and productivity will endure season to season as I welcome the messenger of God reminding me of his ownership of life. This is God living in my life, whom I welcome every time I realize a new harvest.

**Clark Echols, MDiv, PC**

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

[www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com](http://www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com)

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		4pm - 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						

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

## *Schedule*

October 2021

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>10/3</b>	
<b>10/10</b>	11:00 am –Worship Online or in the Sanctuary - contact Pastor Clark
<b>10/17</b>	
<b>10/24</b>	
<b>10/31</b>	

November 2021

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>11/7</b>	
<b>11/14</b>	11:00 am –Worship Online or in the Sanctuary - contact Pastor Clark
<b>11/21</b>	
<b>11/25</b>	Thanksgiving Day
<b>11/28</b>	

*Keep calm and carry on!*

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**October 2021**