



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

The Precursor

November 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

There will not be a Thanksgiving gathering this year. We hope to have an in person gathering Sunday, November 14 and food!

Everyone is invited to join our friends of the New Church of Montgomery on Sunday, November 28 for a harvest feast.

FROM THE WORD

Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?” Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.” When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them. Mark 12:13-17

Divine providence continually causes a person to see truth and gives them moreover a disposition to perceive it and accept it. This is the case because Divine providence acts from within and flows through the interior component into the outer ones, or from the spiritual component into the components in the natural self, and with the light of heaven illumines the intellect, and with the warmth of heaven animates the will. The light of heaven in its essence is Divine wisdom, and the warmth of heaven in its essence is Divine love; and from Divine wisdom nothing can flow in but truth, and from Divine love nothing can flow in but good. It is in consequence of this that the Lord grants in the intellect a disposition to see truth, and also to perceive and accept it. This is what makes a person human, not only in respect to their outward appearance, but also in respect to their inward one. Divine Providence §298

FROM THE PASTOR

What are you asking for? In the light of your faith, do you discern any conflict between what you want and what grace provides? Might it be that your desire is selfish? It may be very difficult to recognize because the culture we all live in, the air we are breathing, is the ordinary, common way of being. If something

works, don't mess with it, right? Just pay your dues and go along to get along. Live and let live.

Jesus was upsetting the status quo, and leaders of every faction wanted him gone. Jesus models how our practice of mindful, prayerful reliance upon the spiritual principles allows us to avoid traps set for our lower nature. The Herodians wanted Jesus to refuse to pay taxes so that he could be arrested and executed by the Romans. The Pharisees wanted Jesus to agree to pay the occupiers' taxes so that he would lose all his followers and they could have him arrested and executed. This may be familiar to us even today: two opposing factions working together to silence a mutually annoying voice.

Jesus calls us to ask the meaningful question: what are we giving to God? Are we robbing him by, first, not giving our obedience, and later, not giving our love? The model Jesus is demonstrating is that first we have to pay our coin – spend what feels like our own, our ego, which costs us. Later, when we discover our value is an enduring gift of God's love that is priceless, when we have welcomed his grace, we will freely give our love, knowing its abundance is actually God's love in us.

Our task is to notice the trap of a mind divided by either/or thinking; caught in a dilemma; agonizing over a choice which feels like between two evils. Such a moment is an opportunity, Jesus shows us here, to step out and remember our trust in God loving us, rescuing us, and giving us all that we can possibly need to live eternally fulfilled and happy lives.

The practice of cultivating an open mind and heart, of considering a new view, is being modeled here by Jesus. But it has been expressed by many wise people from ancient times. For instance, Albert Einstein is reported to have said: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used

when we created them."

God created the human mind to make meaning, to be curious, and to resolve issues that threaten our existence. I imagine early humans resolving the threat of a saber tooth tiger by devising a lethal trap. Today, we have used our gifts to devise the cameras we carry around that instantly share images to people around the planet. Many times it helpfully resolves a threat; but many times it kills what we perceive to be a threat. We can live Jesus' model of noticing the trap and remembering our spiritual principles, a discovering a new spiritual view of our life.

Even as we can use technology to kill people's spirit (not to mention physically as is also happening), so we can use it to express God's love for every human being, and our love for each other. We have to remember that God is protecting our eternal welfare, freeing us to rise above the world, and notice that our perception of the threat is a false flag our ego is using to protect itself. It will feel dangerous – to trust the unseen divine love rather than what we can buy with the coin of our hearts. Let us be strengthened and given courage by the memory of the blessing that comes when we open our minds and hearts to a secure relationship with each other and with God.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

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 7pm - Trillium Story Telling	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 8pm - Facebook Live	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

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5 11am - Online Worship	6	7 5:45pm - Yoga	8	9 6pm - Yoga	10 5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	11 10am - Yoga
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19 11am - Worship	20	21 5:45pm - Yoga	22	23 6pm - Yoga	24 5:30pm - Christmas Eve 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	31 5:30pm - Coffee @ McD's	1

Schedule

November 2021

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

December 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
12/5	
12/12	11:00 am –Worship Online or in the Sanctuary - contact Pastor Clark
12/19	
12/24	Christmas Eve Service
12/26	

Keep calm and carry on!

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