



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

# The Precursor

February 2022

## 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*

Our monthly worship service will be virtual (online) in February

## FROM THE WORD

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.” Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions. Mark 12:28-34

“Humans have two basic faculties: will and intellect. When the will regulates the intellect, the two together make one mind and as a result one life. Under those circumstances, what we will and do is also what we think and intend. When the intellect is at odds with the will, though, as when we act in a way that contradicts what we claim to believe, our single mind is torn in two. One part wants to rise up to heaven while the other leans toward hell. And since the will drives everything, we would rush into hell, heart and soul, if the Lord did not take pity on us. People who have separated faith from love do not even know what faith is. When they try to picture it, some see it merely as thought. Some view it only as thoughts about the Lord. A few equate it with the teachings of faith. But faith is more than the knowledge and acknowledgment of all that is encompassed in the teachings of faith. First and foremost it is obedience to everything that faith teaches; and the primary thing

faith teaches, and requires our obedience to, is love for the Lord and love for our neighbor. Those who lack this [love] have no faith. The Lord teaches this so clearly in Mark that no one can doubt it.” Secrets of Heaven §35, 36

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

Humans are created to want others to believe what they believe. We want others to love what we love. This drive for connection, for a secure attachment, is implanted in humans so that, by experiencing connecting to other people, we will want to also be connected to God. And when a person achieves that connection, their life, and the life of all humans, fulfills the divine plan for creation itself. This urge to be one with God and with others is so deep and pervasive a part of our constitution it is like the air we breathe. This explains why, if we are wounded, especially by harm or abandonment in childhood, we do not automatically notice the pollution in the air that poisons our thoughts and feelings. So our fallen nature, and the wounds of childhood, more or less take over our mind, dividing it. Then, when we seek connection, we regularly act from fear of being harmed or left out.

Jesus affirms this psychological observation when he tells this man that he is “not far from heaven” when the man acknowledges that connecting with people and God through love is more fundamental than any outward acts of faith. What a beautiful and powerful image! What is “heaven” but a state of peace, mutual love, connection with all life, a shared experience of community – everything we all desire to have! And Jesus is saying we can experience this heaven here and now! This man, by this simple acknowledgment, was already close to it!

The Heavenly Doctrines describe this same spiritual circumstance in less poetic terms, but just as powerfully. We experience connection with people and God when we are of “one mind,” because our intentions match our deeds and our words match our beliefs. We are authentic to what is truly human, and we have integrity. These qualities become obvious in our speech and action. People together living truly human, loving lives, is heaven.

The task before us in order to move spiritually closer to heaven, is first, to pay attention to our inner experience of love and faith. The challenge then is to discover how to observe our intentions and beliefs in a purer air and clearer light than we currently have. People “close to heaven” are free to choose to love good and to believe the truth.

The journey begins by simply observing our actions and words – dispassionately observe the effects of what we do and say on others and on our relationships with other people. Sometimes, we will notice we cause pain or disruption. After practicing this observation for some time, we will be moved by the process ordained by God, into a purer air and clearer light, and we will be empowered and enlightened to change what we love and believe. We will be closer to heaven’s sweet atmosphere and bright light!

**Clark Echols, MDiv, PC**

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

*www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com*

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

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27	28	1 5:45pm - Yoga	2	3 6pm - Yoga	4	5 10am - Yoga
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27	28	29 5:45pm - Yoga	30	31 6pm - Yoga	1	2

## *Schedule*

February 2022

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>2/6</b>	
<b>2/13</b>	11:00 am –Worship Online - contact Pastor Clark
<b>2/20</b>	
<b>2/27</b>	

March 2022

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>3/6</b>	
<b>3/13</b>	11:00 am –Worship Online or in the Sanctuary - contact Pastor Clark
<b>3/20</b>	
<b>3/27</b>	

*Keep calm and carry on!*

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