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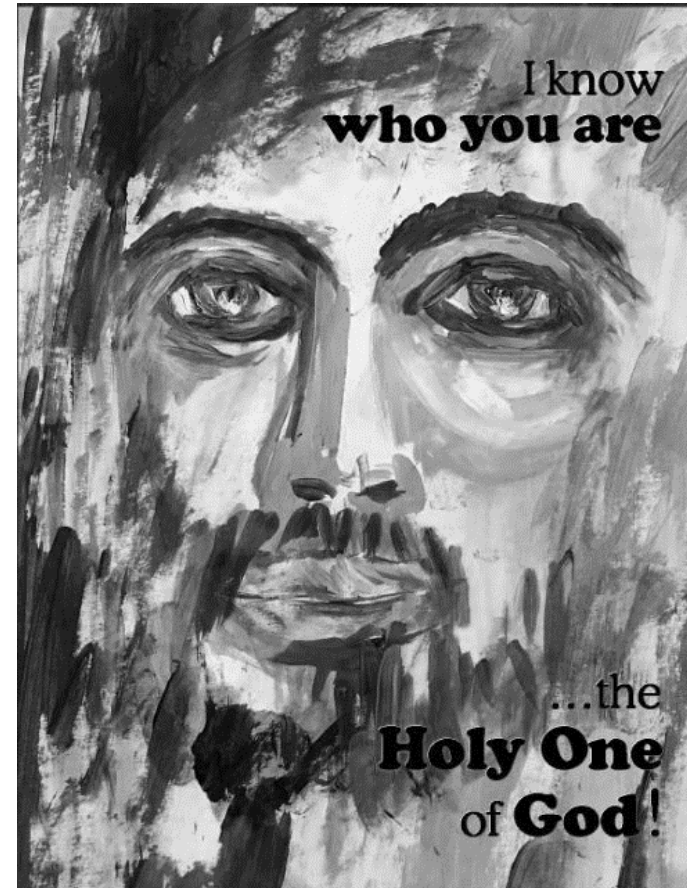
The Evangelical Covenant Church

The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo - people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."

Covenant Community Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Psalm 111 NLT[©])

Leader: Praise the Lord! I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet with his godly people.

**People: How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!
All who delight in him should ponder them.**

Leader: Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.
His righteousness never fails.

**People: All he does is just and good,
and all his commandments are trustworthy.**

Leader: They are forever true, to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.

**People: He has paid a full ransom for his people. He has
guaranteed his covenant with them forever.**

Leader: Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.
All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom

People: Praise him forever!

*Opening Hymn #422 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

We Hear The Word

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NLT[©]

* All who are able are invited to stand

*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28 NLT[©]

*Second Hymn #433

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

We Respond

Prayers of the People (Lord in your mercy...**Hear our Prayer**)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Offering Response

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia*

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent

*Closing Song

Make My Life A Prayer to You

Benediction

*Benediction Response (please stand & turn to face each other as we sing)

ALL: The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you, the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you, give you, give you peace.

Leader: Go in Peace, to Love and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

Helping Us Worship

Pastor:

Rev. Jim Wilkens

Scripture Reader:

Karen Zidovsky

Tech Team:

Don Turner & Doug Morrell

*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28 NLT[©]

²¹ Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.

²³ Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵ But Jesus reprimanded him. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. ²⁶ At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him.

²⁷ Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!” ²⁸ The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.

The word of the LORD. **Thanks be to GOD.**

Announcements

Today, January 28, Extended Coffee Time: You are invited to stay following the service for a celebration of Pastor Jim's time with us.

Sunday February 4 at 10 AM: "Work, Worship and Light Potluck Breakfast" time. CCC Congregation will be working on what we wish to do next. This is a potluck so you are invited to bring a dish to share ~Wayne, Don, Josy, Karen

Red Cross Blood Drive, February 7, Noon-5 PM at Covenant Community Church hosted by the Jericho-Underhill Lions. Schedule an appointment at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org> entering COVENANT in the search bar.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NLT[©]

Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. ² Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn’t really know very much. ³ But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

⁴ So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. ⁵ There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. ⁶ But for us,

There is one God, the Father,
by whom all things were created,
and for whom we live.
And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom all things were created,
and through whom we live.

⁷ However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. ⁸ It’s true that we can’t win God’s approval by what we eat. We don’t lose anything if we don’t eat it, and we don’t gain anything if we do.

⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. ¹⁰ For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won’t they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? ¹¹ So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. ¹² And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. ¹³ So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.