



Community CRC

Oakdale

NEW COVENANT SALVATION

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

01-31-21

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Reflect – Affirmation #1

Because **we exist to glorify God by delighting in Him**, we are committed to meeting for worship regularly and learning to see work, play, education, child-rearing, involvement with local and world politics, (i.e. all of life) as acts of worship.

Welcome

Good Morning! How ya doing today? Take a moment to reflect and pray that this might be true for you today: **May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance today!**

Call to Worship – Psalm 43

Similar to last week, the Psalmist is struggling – he is perplexed with God and unsure of himself. Yet, he continues to correctly understand the sovereignty of God and that He is the one who is the True Light and in whom true hope lies. May we trust in God's sovereign love.

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me?

Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Song –Death Was Arrested -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>

*Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began
Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began
Oh, Your grace so free
Washes over me
You have made me new*



*Now life begins with You
It's your endless love
Pouring down on us
You have made us new
Now life begins with You*

*Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free
Washes over me
You have made me new
Now life begins with You
It's your endless love
Pouring down on us
You have made us new
Now life begins with You*

*Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free
Washes over me
You have made me new
Now life begins with You
It's your endless love
Pouring down on us
You have made us new
Now life begins with You*

*Oh, we're free, free
Forever we're free
Come join the song
Of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free free
Forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, we're free, free
Forever we're free
Come join the song
Of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free free
Forever amen*



*When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began*

Christ Candle – Morocco

We light the Christ candle as a visible sign of God's presence with us; that he has come as light into a world of darkness. We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that Jesus is the light and that in him we become light too. We are never a light on our own. The light we have and can offer to others is the light of Jesus of Nazareth. May we be God's light in 2021.

Jesus of Nazareth said that to be a Christian means to be maltreated for his name's sake (Matthew 5:11) and the apostle Paul said that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12). Mistreatment as a disciple of Jesus is not a matter of *if* but a matter of *when* and a matter of *degree*. Hope is a vital aspect of being a disciple of Jesus. This is especially true under heavy persecution. In America, the land of religious freedom, we have it pretty easy in that there is minimal outright persecution against Christians. **May we make the most of our religious freedom to honor Christ and give credible and coherent witness to him! At the same time, may we be aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who don't share the same freedom that we do. The 24th place that is most challenging to be a disciple of Jesus is the Morocco.**

Of the 36.5 million people in Morocco, only 32,000 identify as disciples of Jesus of Nazareth. Although Morocco is considered to be relatively tolerant compared to other countries in the region, it is illegal to evangelize. Christians who talk about their faith risk criminal charges and arrest. Converts to Christianity can be punished in other ways, such as losing inheritance rights and custody of children. Restrictions imposed by Islamic authorities include the confiscation of Christian literature in Arabic (including Bibles) and serious challenges in securing places of worship for Christians with Muslim backgrounds.

Prayer Points: Pray that the laws would change to make it legal for Christians to share their faith. Pray for perseverance for new believers from a Muslim background as they encounter adversity. Pray with Christians who have difficulty finding a Christian church to worship at; that they would not be discouraged or lose their zeal. Pray for boldness and discernment for believers as they risk prosecution to tell others about Jesus.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Song – This I Believe -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-aSmurqrzA>

*Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one*



*I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus
Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high
I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus
I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord
I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe, in the name of Jesus
I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus*

Song – Revelation Song -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsiDukXIeVY>

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is He
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is He
Sing a new song to Him who sits on*



Heaven's mercy seat

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come

With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings

You are my everything and I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color

Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder

Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be

To You the only wise King

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come

With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings

You are my everything and I will adore You

Filled with wonder awe struck wonder

At the mention of Your name

Jesus Your name is power, breath and living water

Such a marvelous mystery

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come

With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings

You are my everything and I will adore You

Offering – Mission India

Mission India comes alongside churches and missions in every corner of India, equipping them to do the work God has called them to do. So, the churches they plant our theirs. They provide the training, resourced and accountability to help them be successful. 100% of our ministry partners in India are Indian nationals. They are committed to measuring not just activity, but the results of the programs. So, they visit every program multiple times and report that information back to the people who sponsor the work.

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration – Isaiah 40:29-31

Watching the young can be tiring – they seem to have an unlimited supply of energy. I'm reminded of Isaiah 40:29-31 that even youth will tire out but those that wait on the Lord will not. Spend a couple minutes on this amazing passage and promise

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.



Scripture Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Guest Pastor Patrick Anthony)

Please read the above passage. What will follow is not a message from pastor Patrick but one from Richard Pratt Jr., a Reformed theologian. Please watch the service on YouTube that Ryan sends a link to each week to see and hear pastor Patrick's message, New Covenant Salvation on this passage.

Gospel Message – “Out with the Old and in with the New” – Richard Platt Jr.

Followers of Christ repeat Jesus' words “this cup is the new covenant” every time they observe the Lord's Supper. All over the world, local churches include the words *new covenant* in their names. But if you ask most Christians the question, “What is the new covenant?” you get about as many answers as the number of people you ask. What, then, is the new covenant? What is new about it? How is it fulfilled in Christ?

WHAT IS THE NEW COVENANT?

The foretelling of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31–34 begins in this way:

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

To understand this prophecy properly, we should ask how it fits with other Old Testament expectations for the future. The opening words “the days are coming” (v. 31) may appear rather vague to you and me, but the immediate context of this prophecy helps us see that Jeremiah's words were actually rather precise.

The prediction of a new covenant is part of a larger segment of the book of Jeremiah that extends from 30:1 through 31:40. This section is often called the Book of Restoration because it gives several descriptions of Israel's hardships during the exile and the blessings that were to come after the exile. The expression “the days are coming” also appears in 30:3, where it is explicitly associated with God's promise, “I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.”

So, the expression “the days are coming” in 31:31 also refers to the time when the exile would be finished and God's people would return to the Promised Land. Isaiah 54:10, as well as Ezekiel 34:25 and 37:26, describe this covenant as a “covenant of peace.” From the perspective of Old Testament prophecy, God would establish this covenant at the end of Israel's exile with the arrival of the Messiah and the worldwide kingdom of God.

HOW IS THE NEW COVENANT NEW?

There is so much confusion over what makes the new covenant “new” that we have to be careful not to go to extremes. On the one hand, many Christians have taken the expression *new covenant* to mean that it is entirely new, or “brand new,” as we often put it. However, the word *new* translates the Hebrew term *châdash*, which does not mean “utterly new,” as passages like Isaiah 61:4; Ezekiel 36:26; and Job 29:20 make clear. Rather, it means “renewed,” “renovated,” “rebuilt,” or “refreshed.” In other words, God did not promise an *entirely new* covenant in Jeremiah 31.

On the other hand, many Christians have also minimized what is “new” about the new covenant to the point that they see very little difference between it and the old covenant. In contrast with this outlook, Jeremiah's prophecy actually focuses much attention on one of the main ways the new covenant will



be different. As God put it in [Jeremiah 31:32](#), the new covenant “will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt.”

Jeremiah’s prophecy focuses on four features of the new covenant that make it different from the covenant that God made with Israel through Moses. First, *the new covenant cannot be broken*. In [Jeremiah 31:32](#), God described the covenant with Moses as “my covenant that they broke.” Generation after generation, the people of Israel so flagrantly violated the law of Moses that God eventually sent them into exile under the tyranny of evil nations and the false gods they served. The promised new covenant, however, would be different because it could never be broken like the covenant through Moses was. But how would this be possible? How would God ensure that the new covenant would never be broken?

The answer comes in our second point of difference between the old and new covenants, which is that *the new covenant will entail the thorough transformation of God’s people into His faithful servants*. As God put it in [Jeremiah 31:33](#), “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.” Rather than setting aside His commandments, God promised to transform His people so that they would wholeheartedly obey His commands. This kind of inward transformation was not something that had never happened before. Passages like [Deuteronomy 10:16](#) and [Jeremiah 4:4](#) called the people of Israel to move beyond their outward association with God’s covenants to saving faith by circumcising their hearts and writing God’s law on their hearts. Every man, woman, and child in Old Testament history who had saving faith like Abraham did had the law written on their hearts. So, how would the transformation of the new covenant be different from what had already taken place here and there throughout the Old Testament?

The answer, and our third point of difference, is that the inward transformation of the new covenant would *include each person in covenant with God*. As [Jeremiah 31:34](#) puts it, “And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.” Many people in Old Testament Israel knew God, but so many did not know Him that the nation as a whole broke Moses’ covenant and fell under the judgment of exile. By contrast, God promised that every person in the new covenant, “from the least of them to the greatest,” would have saving knowledge of Him. And what would be the result of this saving grace shown to every person in the new covenant?

The result is our fourth point of difference: the wondrous expectation that *the sins of God’s people will be forgiven forever*. As we read in [Jeremiah 31:34](#), “For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Throughout the Old Testament, animal sacrifices made it possible for God’s people to experience temporary relief from the judgment of God. By contrast, the new covenant would bring the permanent, eternal forgiveness of sins. It is no wonder, then, that Jeremiah’s prophecy about a new covenant was cherished by the faithful in Israel. They longed for the day when their covenant relationship with God would be renewed. They looked forward to the time when all of God’s people would be transformed into faithful servants and their sins forgiven forever.

HOW IS THE NEW COVENANT FULFILLED IN CHRIST?

The New Testament plainly teaches in many places that the new covenant of Jeremiah 31 is fulfilled in Christ. Yet, it is obvious that Jesus has not yet fulfilled every facet of this passage. For instance, none of us is perfectly conformed to the law of God in this life. We also know that there are plenty who are



counted among God's new covenant people who have never received saving grace. The New Testament teaches us to call each other to know the Lord and to pray for the forgiveness of our sins day after day.

How can this be true if Jesus fulfills Jeremiah's prophecy? The New Testament explains that Jesus fulfills the expectations of a new covenant in the three stages of His messianic kingdom.

First, the inauguration of the new covenant came with Christ's first advent. In this stage of history, Christ fulfilled many—but not all—of the expectations of the new covenant. In His own service to God, Christ fulfilled the requirements of the moral law and paid the penalty for our disobedience by dying on the cross. As a result, everyone who trusts in Christ for salvation is justified and eternally forgiven of sin in the judgment of God's heavenly court. This is the wondrous truth that Jesus emphasized when He said to His disciples, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" ([Luke 22:20](#)).

Second, what we may call the continuation of the new covenant age extends throughout church history as Christ rules from heaven until all of His enemies are put under His feet. During this time, many more—but still not all—of the expectations of the new covenant are fulfilled as the gospel spreads around the world. In [Hebrews 9:15](#), we read that "Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance." As the One who rose to the right hand of the Father, Jesus serves as the mediator of the new covenant. As our new covenant mediator, Jesus ensures that His followers have access to the Father and that we receive His sustaining grace.

Finally, the new covenant age will reach its consummation in Christ's kingdom at His second advent. At this time, every promise associated with the new covenant will be fulfilled. All of God's people throughout the ages will be perfected in faithful service to God. And more than this, we will see the results of our eternal forgiveness in Christ, the "new heavens and earth" ([Rev. 21:1](#)) when God will make "everything new" (21:5).

It is no wonder, then, that Christ's followers love to speak of the new covenant. From the time of Christ's earthly ministry, God's people have enjoyed many blessings as a result of this new covenant. And we live every day of our lives with the eager expectation that when Christ returns in glory, we will enjoy the fullness of this new covenant forever.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**



Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Song – Build My Life -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8zCBE&feature=emb_title

*Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You*

*Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You*

*Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and
Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*Jesus, the name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You*

*Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and
Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*And I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken
And I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken*

*Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and
Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me
And I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken*



Sending as Disciples of Jesus

God's grace and promise is amazing! And, it is transformative for by it he extends his love and mercy to us through Jesus of Nazareth and the Holy Spirit, conforming us more into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. May we continue to be shaped by his Word and promises of fulfillment as we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

We are sent out by God into the world as his witnesses. As we go, may we know with our minds and believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. And may we live in a manner worthy of that Good News at work, at home, at school and in our neighborhood to the glory of God and through the person and power of the Holy Spirit.