

Sermon Notes  
November 8, 2015  
David A. Renwick

Commitment Sunday: “*The Presence of God*”

**QUESTIONS**

1. When you give . . . Have you ever felt God challenging you to give? And found great joy through giving?

Acts 20:35 “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*”

2. What is it about the ministry of NPC that you value the most?  
What is it at NPC that you want to sustain or expand most by your support?

3. Why does Jesus define eternal life in terms of knowing God/Jesus?

John 17:3: “*And this is eternal life, that people know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*”

Does this definition contrast with/align with previous ideas you might have had about eternal life?

4. What does it take to *know about* a person.  
What does it take to actually *know* a person?  
What’s the difference between *knowing* and *knowing about*?  
What about God? - Have you ever been tempted to settle for *knowing about* God?  
How can we take a step toward actually *knowing* God?

5. Do you think more about God as “everywhere,” or as in some places in particular? Do you have some memories of places or events where you immediately say “God was there?”

6. Is NPC a place, or a community in which you have experienced God?

Please share:

- In a time of worship?
- In music?
- In a time of pastoral care?
- In mission?
- In a Sunday School class or small group?

What was the impact of this experience on your life at that time? After that time?

Was this experience big and noisy? (Ex. 19:18-20).

Or just quiet and inescapable? (see Elijah, 1 Kings 19:11-13;)

4. Have you ever had an experience of God when you were running away from God? (Like Jacob Genesis 28:10-22; or Jonah 1:3 “*Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord*”).

**SOME BIBLE PASSAGES OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**For each passage ask: Where is God?**

**Exodus 13:18, 21-22**

18So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. 21The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. 22Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

**Exodus 19:17-21**

17Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. 19As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. 20When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. 21Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people not to break through to the Lord to look; otherwise many of them will perish.

**Genesis 28:10-17, 20-22**

10Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

15Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

16Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” 17And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” 20Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 21so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, 22and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you.”

### **Psalm 139**

7Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

8If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

12even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

### **2 Corinthians 5:19**

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself

### **Luke 17:11-19**

11On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, 13they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. 15Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

### **Mark 4:35-41**

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

### **Matthew 1:23**

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

### **Matthew 25:35-40**

35 I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

37Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

40And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

### **Matthew 18:20**

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

### **Matthew 28:20**

God and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.