



## Knox Presbyterian Church

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*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

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### *Jeremiah 31:27-34 (The Message)*

*"Be ready. The time is coming when I will plant people and animals in Israel and Judah, just as a farmer plants seed. And in the same way that earlier I relentlessly pulled up and tore down, took apart and demolished, so now I am sticking with them as they start over, building and planting.*

*"That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master."*

*"This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!"*

We live in this time of New Covenant. God's first covenant was a covenant of works. People were judged by their works. The commandments were given, prophet leaders were provided, a fresh start was given as God used Moses to lead his chosen people out of slavery in Egypt. But time and time again people failed to live up to God's expectations. They broke the covenant God had made with them. God was repeatedly disappointed, hurt, and angry with them. So He made a brand new agreement through Jesus, his Son. He *'wiped the slate clean'* through Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins. And no longer do we have to depend on prophets or measuring up to a set of rules. Now we must simply accept forgiveness. As He says, *'I'll forget they ever sinned!'*

As a result God says, *'in the same way that earlier I relentlessly pulled up and tore down, took apart and demolished, so now I am sticking with them as they start over, building and planting.'* Under the circumstances of our failure, our sin, we will no longer be discarded. Instead each day He puts a new law within us. He writes it on our hearts, not on tablets of stone. And with a clean slate we start afresh each day, striving to give thanks to God and to glorify him in all we think say and do. For this is our daily work, to show Him love and appreciation.

### *Psalms 65 (selected verses, the Message)*

*"Silence is praise to you, Zion-dwelling God, and also obedience. You hear the prayer in it all. We all arrive at your doorstep sooner or later, loaded with guilt, our sins too much for us— but you get rid of them once and for all."*

Now we watch for where God is at work. Now we watch to see evidences of his 'power, wonder, love and glory'. The Psalmist continues:

*"All your salvation wonders are on display.  
Earth-Tamer, Ocean-Pourer, Mountain-Maker, Hill-Dresser,  
Muzzler of sea storm and wave crash, of mobs in noisy riot—  
Far and wide they'll come to a stop, they'll stare in awe, in wonder.  
Dawn and dusk take turns calling,  
"Come and worship."*

Let's pray each day, "Father, show us your truth, your Spirit at work."

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrian