



New Church

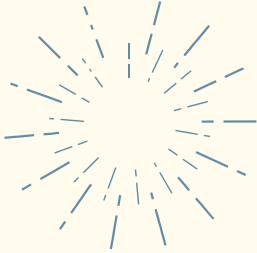
JUNE 2022

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# BISHOP'S NEWSLETTER

*General Church vision and community*

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"Divine Providence is present within the smallest details of all, and people in the stream of providence are being carried along constantly towards happier things, whatever appearance the means may present."

*Arcana Coelestia 8478*

Friends,

It's amazing how the smallest details of the Word can hold such powerful meaning. Today I draw your attention to what is said about the Lord's eyes—eyes that see, and love, and provide.

In the story of the call of Moses at the burning bush, the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt" (Exodus 3:7). The direct reference is to the slavery of the Israelites, which we can easily broaden out to our own suffering. We are told that these words stand for the Lord's mercy, for "when the Lord sees someone in distress or suffering affliction He has compassion on them" (Arcana Coelestia 6851). Note also that this took place at the burning bush, with fire being a consistent symbol for love.

This is why it is said of the Lord who appeared in the midst of the seven golden lampstands in the book of Revelation that His eyes were "like a flame of fire" (Revelation 1:14). The symbolism here is of the Lord's Divine wisdom, the eyes, married to His Divine love, the fire (Apocalypse Revealed 48). This is underscored by a teaching about the way the Lord regards us: "[He] cannot turn away from us or even look at us with a frown" because to do so would be to go against His very essence (True Christian Religion 56:2).

There's something powerful about the eyes that we intuitively know. We say that the eyes are the window to the soul. We catch people's attention by looking them in the eye. We know what it means to look with loving eyes on someone. So too with the Lord. There is nothing but love—pure love for our welfare—in His eyes. He watches over us constantly, He knows all that is going on, and He is there to help us. "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy... Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You" (Psalm 33:18,22).

With affection,

Pete

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# New Church Life

Please refer to the [May/June issue](#) of *New Church Life* for recent letters to the editor regarding "Standing for Marriage in Today's World" and a response from Bishop Buss. You can access *New Church Life* online [here](#).

Don't forget our [newsletter feedback form](#) if you need to reach out with questions, comments or concerns for the episcopal or central office.

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## CONNECT TO SCRIPTURE

Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.  
Revelation 3:8

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The coming of the Lord is not according to the letter, [which states] that He is to appear again in the world; but it is His presence in everyone, and this exists whenever the gospel is preached and what is holy is thought of.  
Arcana Coelestia 3900:9

We hope this section offers you a moment to explore linked readings in the Word and the Writings. You can read more about unique New Church themes in the following vineyard resources: [The Meaning of the Tree of Life](#) and [The Balance of Constancy and Change in the New Church](#).

Do you have a favorite connection between passages of the Word and the Writings? Let us know [here!](#)

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## OFFICE OF OUTREACH

Join us for a summer book club! During the month of July, Pastor Chuck Blair will be leading a discussion of the book, "Searching for Sunday" by Rachel Held Evans. The book centers around one woman's journey through faith, and the struggles we all face as religious believers. The group will meet Wednesdays at 8pm; [click here](#) to register and learn more, and visit [groups.newchurch.org](http://groups.newchurch.org) for other opportunities!



[New Church Vineyard](#) offers many easily searchable activities, including plenty of New Church Day options:

- This [Tree of life lesson](#) compiles readings and activities for all ages.
- See also this simple, print-at-home [paper chain activity](#) that will leave you with bright & beautiful New Church Day images.

You can also [SUBSCRIBE](#) to the Vineyard emails to get project suggestions every month! (Don't forget to check your spam folder if your confirmation email doesn't show up.)



## WHAT WE'RE CHEERING FOR | SOCIETY NEWS

- Five volumes of Lori Odhner's *Songs from the Word* are now available for free streaming & downloading on New Church Audio! Listen [here](#).
- We're excited to watch a recently launched program called the New Church Career Network, which works to "facilitate meaningful connections between young adults and New Church professionals to support them as they pursue their use." Read more about it in the recent issue of [New Church Life](#), and go to [newchurchcareernetwork.org](http://newchurchcareernetwork.org) to get connected!
- The General Church extends sincere thanks to the following board members retiring from service this year:
  - Darryl Hasen of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania
  - Brent Hyatt of Bowie, Maryland
  - Allen Bedford of Bemidji, Minnesota
  - John Walko of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania
- Three theological candidates were ordained this May; we offer congratulations and our wishes for long, prosperous careers serving our church. Pictured from left to right: Hyun-Jin Yang, Calvin Heinrichs, Steven Gunther, Rt. Rev. Pete Buss.



  
TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Our fiscal year ends June 30th. If you are able and haven't yet made your gift to support the work of the General Church, please click left to invest in your church community.

Your participation counts!

