

Sunday, August 22nd, 2021
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:30 AM



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty—Pastor

"Stuck!"

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, August 22, 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *"A Christian is someone who shares the sufferings of God in the world." Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Ringling of the Church Bell
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Beth LaBrunda

The living God has sent the living bread
from heaven to fill our hearts with strength!

With joy let us come to God's house!

With Joy let us worship our Lord!

In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "Breathe on Me"

* **Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" # 578**

* **Passing the Peace**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of our redemption,

we confess that we have not been faithful servants.

We have not served you with sincere hearts
nor trusted in your salvation.

We have forsaken you, the living God,
and have chosen to follow the lifeless idols
of worldly power and wealth.

Forgive us our sin, O God.

Lead us to heartfelt repentance

that we may honor you with our lips

and serve you with our lives,

through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Berlin Nursing Home: For all those who we were unable to visit or sing with during this time of virus.

Hearing Assistance

Headphones are available at the back of the sanctuary for hearing assistance.

Directory Updates: *No updates this week.*

Online Giving - Simple . . . Secure

By making use of the Presbyterian Foundation's online giving portal, we are providing a way for members and friends to setup a secure one-time or recurring donation to First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City.

You can use the **Give Now** button on our church website and/or download the **GivePlus Mobile app** onto your smartphone. In the **GivePlus** app, our church is listed as "**Ocean City Presbyterian Church**". For either method, you will need to setup a simple, secure profile. Through either path, during the checkout process, you will be given an opportunity to add 2% to your donation to cover the transaction fees. Please consider covering the fee to help us keep costs to a minimum.

Call or email the church office with any questions. Thank you!

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues, Aug 24	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Wed, Aug 25	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
Sat, Aug 28	Sligo-by-the-Sea	9:00 AM

Birthdays: *No birthdays this week.*

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

~ In loving memory of Louisa Quillen and the celebration of her August birthday with our Lord and Savior. We all remember Louisa as being such a sweet and gentle lady. ~ *Nancy Wright*

~ In honor of all the brave First Responders who risk their lives to protect ours. God bless and keep them and their families safe.

The following is the schedule of "hostesses" for fellowship following Sunday worship during August and September:

Aug 29	Jackie Bates and Mabel Rogers
Sept 5	Ann Hales and Carol Reese
Sept 12	Karen Eberle and Nancy Wright
Sept 19	Sarah Dypsky and Jan Owens
Sept 26	Jan Owens and Peggy Webster

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Hear the good news:

Christ himself is the Word that offers eternal life to all who receive him.

This proves his love for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

* Gloria Patri (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Let all who revere the Lord,
who desire to serve the Lord in sincerity and
in faithfulness,
bring their gifts with joyful hearts.

* Doxology (unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God,
we dedicate ourselves to serve you,
for you alone are our God.
Receive, O God, the gifts we offer,
and with these gifts accept the offering of our lives,
through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "My Jesus I Love Thee"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life.
By your Holy Spirit, let your words pierce
our darkness,
strengthen our faith and illumine our witness
for you. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2(a), 14-18 [NRSV]

Elder Rich Wright

24:1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 24:2a And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

24:14 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 24:15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

24:16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; 24:17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 24:18 and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

2nd Scripture Reading: John 6: 56-69 [NRSV]

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6:56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 6:57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 6:58 This is

The Joy of Worship in the Temple

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed.

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts,

happy is everyone who trusts in you.

~ Psalm 84 ~

“How Amiable Are Thy Dwellings:

A Response To Psalm 84”

~ Malcolm Guite

Yahweh saves, Our God is merciful
And how I long to enter in his courts
To nestle at his altar and to dwell

With him for ever. Day and night my thoughts
Are yearning towards the beauty of his temple
In swallow-flights of song. For in his courts

Time is transfigured, opened out and ample,
It touches on eternity. I stay
Awhile within this church: its simple

Furnishings, and storied windows say
More to me of heaven than the pale
Abstractions of theology. A day

Spent in an empty church has been as full
Of goodness as an age elsewhere. I feel
Its peace refresh me like a holy well.

the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." 6:59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" 6:61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? 6:62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 6:63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 6:64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 6:65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

6:66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 6:67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 6:69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Time with Children & Youth

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Sermon: "Stuck!"

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*** Hymn "This is My Father's World" # 58**

*** Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,**

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

Let us pray to the Lord, saying,
O God, keep your promise. You have the
words of life.

Faithful God, there is no one like you in heaven
or on earth.
The highest heaven cannot contain you,
yet you dwell in our midst and regard our prayers
with favor.

So we lift our hearts in your house, praying by the
power of your Spirit
and persevering in supplication for the church,
the creation, and those in need.
O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life.

Let your church stand firm in the strength
of your power,
overcoming evil and proclaiming the gospel of peace.
O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life.

Bless us to care for your creation, the sanctuary
you have provided
to nourish, sustain, and shelter humankind
and all living things.
O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life.

May the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers
of this present darkness
yield to your reign of love, peace, justice,
and goodness for all.
O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life.

Protect and comfort the weak, the young, and the sick
Hear the cry of the stranger, the forgotten.

O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life. And we pray for

Strengthen our faith, deepen our love, empower
our witness.
O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life.

Happy are those who have passed into your presence
in hope of the resurrection.
O God, keep your promise.
You have the words of life.

Lord God, you are our sun and shield, our strength
and hope. With joy, we entrust our prayers to you through
Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray to you by saying, **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 debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

*Hymn: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" # 2

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Three-Fold Amen"

