

Third Sunday in Lent
March 12th, 2023



Jesus and the Samaritan Women

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

"She Met a Seventh Man"

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Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Tuesday - Friday

Third Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 12th, 2023

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "He asks for a drink, and he promises a drink. He is in need, as one hoping to receive, yet he is rich, as one about to satisfy the thirst of others.... What is this water that he will give if not the water spoken of in Scripture: With you is the fountain of life? How can those feel thirst who will drink deeply from the abundance in your house?" - *Augustine's Treatise on the Gospel of John (Tract. 15, 10-12, 16-17: CCL 36, 154-156)*

Ring of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Beth LaBrunda

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

The hour is coming and is now here.

In spirit and truth, let us worship God. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

* Hymn "Softly and Tenderly" #326

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, you know who we are. You know everything we have done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. Still, you offer us the gift of living water. Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life. Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water, so that we may never thirst again. Amen.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Karen Cobb Snyder, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Dawn Butler, Connie Ellis, Bonnie Hancock, Margie Bauer Cramer, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Janice Beckham, Jim Phillips, Russ Shallcross, Carol Nelson, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna,, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Jane Zimmer, and Marie McCallister

Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

John Snyder and Marie McCallister (Marty Cropper's sister)

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

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up

March 19 Jackie Bates & Dawn Butler

March 26 Beth Fisher

April 2 Marty Cropper & Betsy Kipila

Volunteers Needed ...

We are seeking volunteers to help at our **Wednesday Food Pantry**. From 9AM - 11:30AM greet people, guide them to the Food Pantry, and help restock the pantry from our storage, as needed. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider participating in this much needed ministry.

New Member Class

Pastor Dan will be conducting a New Members Class on **Friday, April 14th at 6:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall. If you have an interest in joining our congregation as a member - or just would like to know more about the Presbyterian Church and Reformed faith, please put this date and time on your calendar! It is sure to be a helpful and interesting discussion.



Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!.

Sun	Mar 12	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Tues	Mar 14	Deacon Meeting	3:00 PM
Wed	Mar 15	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Wed	Mar 15	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Wed	Mar 15	Girl Scouts Troop # 812	6:00 PM
Fri	Mar 17	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Tues	Mar 21	Book Club	2:00 PM

Birthdays: David Mumford (03/15) Renee Fitzgerald (03/16)
Dave Fresca (03/17) Gregg Custis (03/18)

Flowers: Today's Chancel vase is given:

~ To the Glory of our Risen Savoir and in memory of Bill Greenwood as he is celebrating his heavenly birthday today.

As a husband and father, Bill loved his family and as a Christian, Bill faithfully served his Lord. ~ Donna, Chris, and Jamie

2nd vase open for dedication March 19th

Book Club - March 21st (After WOW Meeting)

At our next Book Club meeting, we will be discussing **"Our Lady of the Lost and Found"** by Diane Schoemperlen. Told with humor and grace, this book is an absorbing tour through the Virgin Mary's history and a thoughtful meditation on spirituality, our need for faith, and our desire to believe in something larger than ourselves.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

This is the good news of God's grace: Though we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we were enemies of God, God loved us.

Once we were lost and dead, now Christ has become our life and salvation. In 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

See how the fields are ripe for harvest!

Already, God is gathering fruit for eternal life.

With rejoicing, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

* 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

O Lord, you are our God; we are the people of your pasture, the sheep of your hand. As you have fed us by your mercy, may it be our daily bread to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem: "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Living God, through the reading of the Scriptures and by the power of your Spirit, may we hear for ourselves the good news, and believe, because of your Word, that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: John 4: 5-42 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet." ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The

An Invitation to Abundant Life

*Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and
without price. Why do you spend your money for
that which is not bread, and your labor for that
which does not satisfy?*

*Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and
delight yourselves in rich food.*

*Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that
you may live. I will make with you an everlasting
covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.*

*See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a
leader and commander for the peoples.*

*See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to
you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One
of Israel, for he has glorified you.*

Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

*let the wicked forsake their way, and the
unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to
the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and
to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are
your ways my ways, says the LORD.*

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so
are my ways higher than your ways and my
thoughts than your thoughts.*

Isaiah 55:1-9

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—April 2

10:30 AM—Traditional Lord's Day Service. We will have a procession of the palms, led by our choir.

Maundy Thursday—April 6

6:00 PM—Agape Feast (pot luck) with Communion & Tenebrae Service—FPCOC Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday—April 7

12:00 PM—Crosswalk—Begins at Son'Spot on Worcester Street; will proceed north on the boardwalk, with intermittent stops for reflections and hymns. Concludes at Atlantic United Methodist on 4th street, with refreshments.

6:00 PM—FPCOC Good Friday Taizé Service. Scripture readings, Taizé hymns, and reflections from witnesses to the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Easter—Resurrection Sunday—April 9

6:00 AM—Community Sunrise Service—Boardwalk & N. Division Street. Ministers and musicians from area churches participating. Chairs and bleachers available—bring a blanket!

9:00 AM—Brunch at FPCOC prior to our Lord's Day Service at **10:30 AM**.

woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Time with Children & Youth
Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "She Met a Seventh Man"
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*Hymn "A Shelter in the Time of Storm" #353

Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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

Saving God, you are the giver of living water, the source of deepest compassion, the fountain of eternal life. Therefore, we pray to you: Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are thirsty—thirsty for a life of meaning, thirsty for a word of grace, thirsty for a drink of water . . .
Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are weary—weary from life's long journey, weary from quarreling and testing, weary from pain or grief . . .
Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are broken—broken by sin and suffering, broken by hard disappointment, broken by acts of violence . . .
Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those close to us who are sick and struggling,
Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.** And we pray for

Living God, through your Spirit, pour your love into our hearts, your grace into our lives, your healing into our world, until the

earth is filled with your glory as the waters cover the sea; through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray to you 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 "Amazing Grace" #202

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Two-Fold Amen"

Household Prayer: Morning

*God, my maker, hold me this day, with the same
hand that shapes the mountains,
with the same hand that cradles the deep.
Keep my heart soft and supple,
make my faith strong and firm.
Renew me, re-form me, re-create me
into the image of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen*

Household Prayer: Evening

*We come to you now,
O Lord weary
from the day's journey,
thirsty for rest, hungry for peace.
Renew us in your love
and restore us by your grace,
until we find our rest at last
by the river of the water of life. Amen.*