

Sunday, May 2, 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
10:30 AM



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

*"The Fear of Bearing Fruit"*

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

# Liturgy for Sunday, May 2, 2021

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** *"In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer—Letters and Papers from Prison*

### Ringling of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:** (responsive)  
**Elder Peggy Webster**

In the wilderness, water brings life.

**Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

**Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness. Amen.**

### Prelude

\* Hymn: "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" # 92

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

God of mercy,

We confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us.

We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### Current Prayer Concerns:

**Berlin Nursing Home:** For all those whom we're unable to visit or sing with during this time of virus.

### Collection Plate

A reminder that, until we can resume our normal worship routines, our collection plate is situated on the small table in the center rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

### Directory Updates:

### Hearing Assistance

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

### Food Pantry Needs this Week:

Due to the generosity of our church family and so many in our community, our Pantry is in good shape for the next week. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and next week's Bulletin, where we will note items that we're running low on.

Thank you all - we continue to be neighbors helping neighbors.

## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Wed, May 5

Girl Scouts # 812

6:00 PM

**Birthdays:** Cameron Campbell (May 2nd)

**Flowers:** Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

~ In loving memory of Nancy's "Mama", Olivia Bischler as she celebrates her May 4th birthday with her Lord and Savior. Precious memories bring many smiles. ~ *Nancy and Rich Wright*

\* Chancel vases are open for May 16 (1 vase) and for Pentecost Sunday, May 23 (2 vases).

## CRU is Returning!

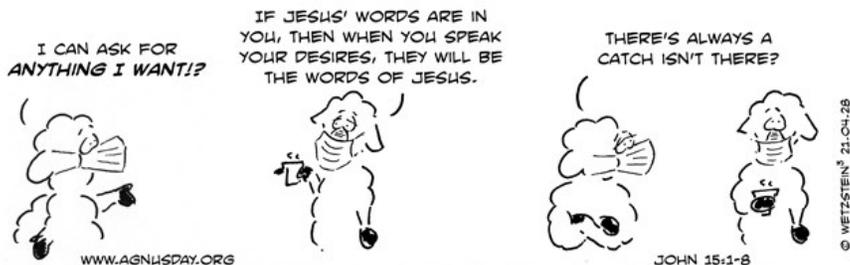
CRU is coming back to Ocean City this summer! We are so excited to hear that CRU will be back to use our facilities and worship with us. The leadership will arrive the last week of May and the students will arrive the first week of June. I have it on good authority that the Barnett family is assigned to our church which means the return of Graham and Cara! We are so blessed to be a part of this ministry! Be on the lookout and give big warm welcomes to all of our CRU friends.

~ *Pastor Dan*



## Housing needed for CRU babysitters!

The CRU adult leadership is bringing two babysitters so they may be free to lead the college ministry. The babysitters are two female University of Delaware graduates who are vaccinated and have passed background checks. While the CRU students have housing, the babysitters do not. If you know of anyone who can provide housing from the last week of May through the first week of July, please contact Pastor Dan or Beth in the office. Thank you.



## Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you.

In baptism God claimed you

and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine.

**We believe the promise given to us:**

**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.**

## Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Gracious and Eternal God,

Through baptism you named us and claimed us as your own.

Through your Word you reveal your love and your grace for us.

Send your Spirit to open our hearts and minds that we may truly abide in you all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## \* 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.

## 1st Scripture Reading: Acts 8: 26-40 [NRSV]

### Elder Lisa Bayles

8:26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

8:27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

8:28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

8:30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

8:31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

8:32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

8:33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

8:34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

8:35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

8:36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

8:38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## 2nd Scripture Reading: John 15: 1-8 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

15:2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

15:3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

15:4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

15:6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named and those whose needs are known only to you, in the name of your Son, who taught us how to pray to you by praying, **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 "Abide With Me" # 419 (verses 1, 3, & 5)

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

## *Go Now in Peace*

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.*

*Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, Amen, Amen*

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

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying,  
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.  
Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you made.  
We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness; God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people.  
Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us.  
Enliven the church with your Spirit, that we may honor your earth with responsible care.  
God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers who endure disasters caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed.  
Strengthen all who are in peril.  
You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.  
God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good things, bring trust and sympathy to the nations of the world.  
Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict.  
Give wisdom to leaders and hope to the poor.  
God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Good healer, we pray for all who are in need of comfort.  
Comfort those who mourn;  
uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil, or awaiting words of hope.  
God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.** And we pray for ....

## Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: *"The Fear of Bearing Fruit"*

Rev. Dan McKenty

\* Hymn: *"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" # 284*

\* Affirmation of Faith (unison)

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.

## Sacrament of Our Lord's Supper (responsive)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.  
At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.  
Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all your creatures to love and serve you.  
When we were unfaithful to you you kept faith with us, your love remained steadfast.

When we were slaves in Egypt,  
you broke the bonds of our oppression,  
brought us through the sea to freedom,  
and made covenant to be our God.  
By a pillar of fire  
you led us through the desert  
to a land flowing with milk and honey,  
and set before us the way of life.  
You spoke of love and justice in the prophets,  
and in the Word made flesh you lived among us,  
manifesting your glory.  
He died that we might live,  
and is risen to raise us to new life.  
Therefore, we praise you,  
joining our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
whom you sent to save us.  
He came with healing in his touch,  
and was wounded for our sins.  
He came with mercy in his voice,  
and was mocked as one despised.  
He came with peace in his heart,  
and met with violence and death.  
By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb,  
and at his command the gates of hell were opened.  
The one who was dead now lives.  
The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation,  
the Lamb upon the throne.  
The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,  
we take this bread and this wine  
from the gifts you have given us,  
and celebrate with joy  
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.  
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,  
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ  
that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Nourished at this table, O God,  
may we know Christ's redemptive love  
and live a new life in him.  
Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread  
to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken.  
Give us who are fed at his hand,  
grace to share our bread with the hungry  
and with the hungry of heart.  
Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we shall feast with all your saints  
in the joy of your eternal realm.  
Through Christ,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,  
now and forever. **Amen.**