

Sunday, December 12, 2021  
Third Sunday of Advent  
10:30 AM



*Advent*  
*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

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

*"Joseph's Story"*

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

# Liturgy for Sunday, December 12th, 2021

## Third Sunday of Advent

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guide your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ~ Philippians 4:6-7

### Ringling of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:** (responsive)

**Deacon Mary Snyder**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might.

**He has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw waters from the wells of salvation.

**And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Amen.**

### Prelude

**Choral Introit: "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"**

\* Hymn: "What Child is This?" # 137

\* Passing the Peace

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (responsive)

**John and Karen Eberle**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

Week by week the light grows stronger and brighter, as we anticipate the coming of the Christ.

**Current Prayer Concerns:** Nancy Kaiser, June Todd, Shami Maxwell, Esther Smith, Melissa Fields, Russ Shallcross, Shirley Warren, Jim Phillips, Carol Nelson, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Carolyn Walston, Jack Hood, Maggie Mazcho, Lynda, Martha Sekely, Terry Campanella, Bob Lebo, Tanya Ehlers, Andy Hales, and Lydia Frasca.

**Those homebound or undergoing treatment:** John Snyder, Debra Latture

**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.*

**Communion:** When we are celebrating communion, we will serve non-alcoholic grape juice instead of wine.

### Food Pantry Items Needed:

- Small mayonnaise
- Small cans of canned beef and Spam
- Travel deodorants and sopas
- Small juices
- Rice-a-Roni
- Small Vienna sausages
- Eggs

**The following is the schedule of hostesses for fellowship following Sunday worship for the remainder of the month of December:**

Dec 12th  
Dec 19th  
Dec 26th

Karen Eberle and Nancy Wright  
Carol Reese and Peggy Webster  
Marty Cropper and Ann Hales

## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, Dec 12	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Tues, Dec 14	Deacons' Meeting	3:00 PM
Tues, Dec 14	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
Tues, Dec 14	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Tues, Dec 14	Session Meeting	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 15	Girl Scouts # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, Dec 17	Harbour Village Board Meeting	4:30 PM
Fri, Dec 17	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

**Birthdays:** Beth LaBrunda (12/14), Marty Cropper (12/16)

**Flowers:** The large white poinsettias are given in memory of:  
~ James B. Thaxter, Jr. , given lovingly by Bill and Jan Owens and their daughters, Chris, Jessie, Joellen, and Michael Anne.

~ Our children, Greg Dypsky and Sharon Sauer, and their spouses Lisa and Jeff, and our two grandsons, Nathan and Ryan and their spouses Shelby and Shannon. God has blessed us richly.

~ *Cliff and Sarah Dypsky*

~ A basket of Christmas flowers is in honor of our daughter Julia and the celebration of her birthday on December 9th.

~ *Rich and Nancy Wright*

~ A bud vase of three red roses is in memory of my loving husband, Dick Snyder, who celebrates his birthday today with our Lord and Savior. Always loved, never forgotten. ~ *Mary*

## WOW - Women of Worship

The Women of Worship will be having their traditional Christmas Party on **Tuesday, December 21st at 11:00 AM**. A delicious lunch will be provided. Wear your most festive top, bring a bible, and, if you like, a dessert to share. We'll sing our annual rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and participate in Jackie Bates' wonderful Advent Reflection on the Women in Jesus' Genealogy.

The candles of Hope and Peace are already ablaze. Today we light the candle of Joy.

We excitedly anticipate the coming of the Mighty One. The promise of healing, comfort, liberty, and freedom is good news that is meant to be shared!

**Rejoicing in the mercy and justice of our Lord, we kindle this flame. Together, we lift our hearts and voices in songs of joy. Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of Light, God of Incarnation, you shone light in the darkness and your Word became flesh. We confess that we do not always seek the light and are often seduced by the darkness. Again, and again we learn the bitter lesson that the bread offered by the darkness is stale and the cup is always empty. Forgive us our greed Lord; forgive us our shallowness and lead us back to your light. Teach us again to be good and true witnesses to the glory of your Son, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

In the name of the one God  
who lives and moves among us, we are forgiven.  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against us.  
**We will no longer worry or fret. We are now free to live in peace. 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 us bring to God our offerings,  
with thanksgiving that God provides more than enough for all.  
Let us give, as each is able, for the benefit of Christ's church and God's world.

## \* 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

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,  
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor  
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Choral Anthem: "Lessons from Isaiah"

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**God of Hope, God of Preparation, God of Joy, send your Spirit to enlighten us with your Word so that we may prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child and share with others the message of Hope and Joy that his coming brings to the world. This we pray in the name of the One born poor and humble and holy. Amen.**

### Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-20 [NRSV]

**Elder Chris Greenwood**

3:14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

3:15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

3:16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

3:17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

3:18 I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

## Praise for God's Help

1 Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.  
3 Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.  
5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
6 who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
7 who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
9 The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
10 The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

Psalm 146

## Joseph's Talk with God

*Am I Job in his time of agony,  
am I David who lost his first son?  
Are Jonah's trials reserved for me,  
have I sinned as Solomon?  
Am I Saul without a harp to sooth,  
Am I Samson without his hair?  
My faith I thought could never be moved,  
yet this I can not bear.  
Am I to be tossed in the lion's den;  
Daniel had lifesaving favor.  
Am I to believe, my fiancé, my friend,  
will soon give birth to our Savior?  
I've never lived a life like the wild,  
I'm a descendant of God-fearing Kings.  
The woman I love is now with a child,  
yet she hasn't been given a ring.  
Who will believe that an Angel appeared  
to confirm the Savior's arrival?  
People will scoff; I'll be stricken with fear,  
what of my fiancé's survival?  
Dear Lord these questions I have to ask;  
lay not this charge against me?  
Release me from this unbearable task;  
that's all that I ask of thee.  
If not Lord let thy will be done,  
forgive me of my selfish plea?  
A child who many will call your Son  
is certainly far better than me.  
Grant me the strength to endure Oh Lord;  
for Mary I now intercede.  
I pray for her womb, where salvation is stored,  
a salvation that none can impede.*

<https://allpoetry.com/Minsmif>

- 3:19 I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.
- 3:20 At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

### Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Joseph's Story"

Rev. Dan McKenty

\* Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" # 133

\* Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe that God has come to us;  
that God brought us into being,  
that this God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;  
that God is not happy to leave us alone,  
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,  
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his  
hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us;  
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue  
our work,  
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect  
"Alleluia!"

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

Let us offer our prayers of intercession to God, saying,  
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

Lord of Life, you call us to prepare the way for your reign  
by bearing fruit worthy of repentance.  
You lift up a vision before us of a world that is shared and fair,  
where needs are met, and no one is outcast.  
Baptize us fresh in your Spirit as we pray,  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

We pray for the nations of the world,  
both allies and enemies,  
for their leaders and their people.  
Make yourself known to us all,  
that all the peoples of the earth may live in justice and peace.  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For your church here and abroad,  
that we hear your call for justice as good news for all people.  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For those who suffer from natural disasters,  
from hunger and cold.  
Lead us to share our food and our coats with them.  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For the frail, the sick, and all those whose hands grow weak,  
lead us to help them with gentleness.  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.** And we pray for ...

For those who are disabled, oppressed, or outcast among us,  
change their pain into praise, and let their courage be renowned  
in the world.  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For the earth from which we draw our health, our strength,  
our inspiration,  
and for all the living creatures in whose community we live—  
God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

Surely, God, we can trust in you and not be afraid.  
Lead us in songs of praise and shouts of joy, for you are in our  
midst.

We pray through the one who baptizes us not only with water  
but with the Holy Spirit, and 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: "Joy to the World" # 125**

**Charge  
Benediction  
Postlude and Response "Go Now in Peace"**

### *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*