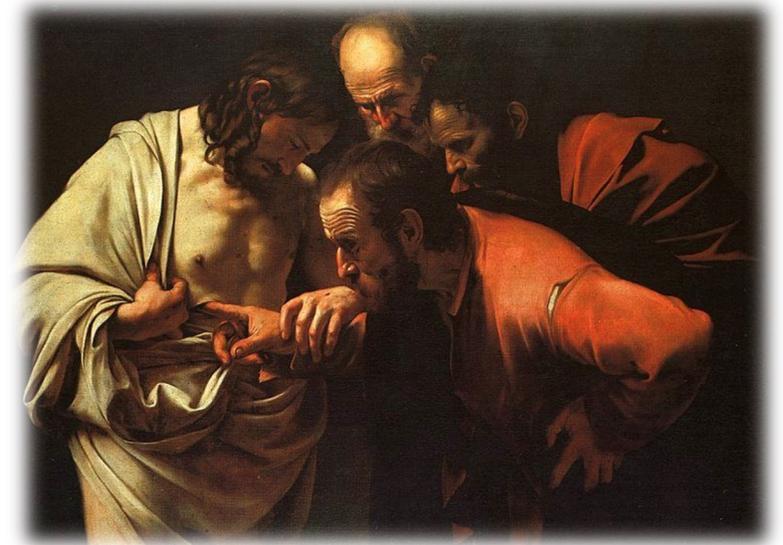


Sunday, April 11, 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter  
10:30 AM



*"Doubting Thomas" Caravaggio 1601/1602*

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

*"Letting Go"*

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# Liturgy for Sunday, April 11, 2021

## Second Sunday of Easter

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** *"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore." Psalm 133*

### Ringling of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:** (responsive)

**Beth LaBrunda**

Peace be with you.

**How good and pleasant it is  
when we live together in unity.**

Receive the Holy Spirit.

**It is like precious oil on the head,  
the blessing of the Lord. Amen.**

### Prelude

\* Hymn: "Thine is the Glory" # 227

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

You have shown yourself to us, O God,  
by Word and Spirit,

with signs and wonders,

in flesh and blood,

yet we still struggle to live and believe  
the good news of Jesus Christ.

Have mercy on us; forgive us.

Enter into our lives

and cast out our fear

so that we may come to trust in you

### 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:

Updated directories were emailed out on 3/24. Please check for accuracy and notify the church office of needed changes.

### Hearing Assistance

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

### Food Pantry Needs this Week:

- \* Fruit Cups
- \* Eggs
- \* Bread
- \* Juice Boxes
- \* Coffee Creamer
- \* Coffee Sweeteners
- \* Pudding Snacks
- \* Dinty Moore Beef Stew
- \* Small Jars of Mayonnaise



## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tuesday, April 13	Book Club	2:00 PM
Tuesday, April 13	Deacons' Meeting	3:00 PM
Tuesday, April 13	Session Meeting	7:00 PM
Thursday, April 15	Brown Bag Bible Study	12:30 PM (Zoom)

## Birthdays:

Wayne Cannon (4/11), Tony Spock (4/15), Christie Cannon (4/17)

**Flowers:** A vase of 3 yellow roses is placed to welcome Dawn Butler as she joins our church today. Welcome to God's family here at First Presbyterian, Dawn!

## In Gratitude

Hatty Ketterman would like to send her heartfelt thanks to all who sent her beautiful cards and messages for her recent birthday. She is most grateful for the loving support from her FPOC church family and sorely misses being with us in person. She is looking forward to the day when she can once again worship in our midst!

### *A Sonnet for St. Thomas the Apostle*

By Malcolm Guite

We do not know... how can we know the way?"  
Courageous master of the awkward question,  
You spoke the words the others dared not say  
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.  
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,  
You put your finger on the nub of things  
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,  
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.  
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,  
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.  
Because He loved your awkward counter-point  
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.  
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine  
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

## Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

We have an advocate with God—  
Jesus Christ, the righteous one—  
who offered his life in love  
to save the world from sin.

**This is the good news of the gospel:  
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)

God of all who doubt and believe,  
by the gift of your Spirit  
enable us to hear with our ears,  
to see with our eyes,  
and to touch with our hands  
your Word of life—Jesus Christ—  
our Lord and our God. 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 4: 32-35 [NRSV]

### Deacon Mary Snyder

4:32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.  
4:33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

4:34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

4:35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

## 2nd Scripture Reading: John 20: 19-31 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

20:19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

20:24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

20:25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

20:26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

20:31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

## 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*

HE **BREATHED** ON THEM?  
IS THAT EVEN **SAFE?**



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IT IS... IF IT'S  
THE **BREATH OF GOD!**



JOHN 20:19-31

not clinging to our own possessions  
but seeking the fullness of life for all  
as a testimony to Christ's resurrection.  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
**send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for loved ones.  
Be near to those who walk in darkness  
and lead us all into Christ's light  
so that our fellowship may be true  
and our joy may be complete.  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
**send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for those who suffer illness, depression, addiction, and  
disease. Send your healing Spirit to provide comfort and hope.  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
**send us your Spirit of peace.**  
And we pray for ...

By the blessing of your Spirit,  
help us to live as we pray  
so that the world may come to know  
the gift of life in Christ our Lord who taught us to pray to you  
with these words, **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 " Take the Name of Jesus with You" # 116**

**Charge  
Benediction  
Postlude**

**Sermon: "Letting Go"  
Rev. Dan McKenty**

**\* Hymn: "He Lives" # 220**

**Service for the Welcoming of a New Member - Dawn Butler  
Elder Mabel Rogers**

Brothers and sisters in Christ and members of First Presbyterian  
congregation, on behalf of the session, I am honored to present Dawn  
Butler who has been received into the membership of this  
congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

**Rev. Dan McKenty**

In baptism you were claimed by God, marked as Christ's own forever,  
and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit. You come to us then, not as a  
stranger, but as a friend in Christ and a member of the household of  
God. We rejoice that you now desire to join with this congregation in  
the worship and mission of the church.

Hear these words from scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one  
hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and  
Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Dawn, do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God, the  
powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that  
draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his  
love, to your life's end?

**I will, with God's help.**

## Profession of Faith

As members of the body of Christ, let us all reaffirm the faith into which we were baptized, let the whole congregation say, **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Dawn, we have professed our faith as one body. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Holy God, thank you for calling us to be your people and joining us to Christ's body, the church. We praise you for leading Dawn to this congregation. Empower us by our Spirit, that we might love one another as Christ loved us, honoring him in all that we say and do, giving our lives in service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Let the congregation say, **Amen.**

Dawn remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

Let the congregation say, **Thanks be to God.**

## Welcome

### Elder Mabel Rogers

Welcome to this ministry that we share in Jesus Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Living God, giver of life,  
hear us as we pray, saying,  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for the church.

Let your church be a living sign  
of the woundedness and healing of Christ,  
sharing the gift of forgiveness  
and the gospel of reconciliation.  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
**send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for the earth.

Help us to see the scars of death  
that mark your good creation,  
and to seek the blessing of life  
that you offer to all creatures.  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
**send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for all nations.

Show us how good and pleasant it is  
when people live together in unity,  
and anoint us with your wisdom  
so that we may seek the ways of life.  
Pour out your blessing, O Lord;  
**send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for this community.

Give us a vision of the common good: