

Sunday, January 28th, 2024  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
10:30 AM



For all the gods  
of the nations  
are idols: but  
the LORD made the  
heavens.

- Psalms 96:5

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City  
Rev. Ann Bolek

“Idols Are So Old Testament, Right?”

Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster  
1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City MD 21842  
Phone: 410-289-9340

Office: [ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com)

Pastor: [ministerocpresby@gmail.com](mailto:ministerocpresby@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ocmdpresbyterian.org](http://www.ocmdpresbyterian.org)

Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon

# Liturgy Sunday, January 28th, 2024

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** Lord God, the source of all good things, we pause in your presence and hold our day before you. Still us, calm us as we enter this day.

### Ringling of the Church Bell

### Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:** (responsive)

**Betsy Kipila**

How amazing are the deeds of our God

**Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.**

His righteousness and justice never fail;

**He is gracious and compassionate to all.**

### Prelude

### Choral Introit "Higher Ground"

\* Hymn: "He Leadeth Me" #461

\* Passing the Peace

### Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Forgive us, O God, for seeing good only in what we understand and accept as your truths. Remind us of Paul's words "If I have all knowledge but do not have love, I am nothing". Touch us, teach us, heal us and make us newly aware of your love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

We know in faith that God restores and renews, and that our sins 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.

### Current Prayer Concerns:

Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Tom Taylor, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, and Baby Owen.

### Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

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

**Berlin Nursing Home:** For all those who we are unable to visit or sing with.

### Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Feb 4 Karen Eberly & Mabel Rogers

Feb 11 Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster

Feb 18 Nancy Wright & Brenda Wilkinson

Feb 25 Barbara & Besty Kipila

## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Jan	30	Mobile Showers	9:30	AM
Wed	Jan	31	Hand Bells Practice	5:00	PM
Wed	Jan	31	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri	Feb	2	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

**Birthdays** Sara Dypsky (1/28)

## Flowers

Beginning February 2024 there will be an increase in the cost of flowers, Please make note.

Chancel vases.....\$30.00

Basket of flowers....\$35.00

vase of 3 flowers....\$21.00

Chancel vases open for dedication

02-04-24 2 vases

02-11-24 1 vase

02-18-24 1 vase

02-25-24 2 vases

### Congregation Financials as of December 31, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** ((\$159,068.88 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$226,916.88

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): \$236,458.92

## Invitation to the Offering

Each of us has been given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Let us give a measure of what has already been given

### \* 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

Loving God, as you fed your people in the wilderness, use our gifts, time, and talents as the manna to meet the hungers of the world in which we live. For Jesus' sake. Amen

### Choral Anthem "Heaven Came Down"

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts through the reading of the scriptures that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.

### 1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 111 [NRSV]

#### Barbara Kipila

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup>Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup>They are established forever and ever,

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.  
<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.  
<sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

## **2nd Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-11 [NRSV]**

**Rev. Bolek**

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But whoever loves God is known by God. <sup>4</sup> So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. <sup>7</sup> But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. <sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.

## **Time with Children & Youth**

**Rev. Ann Bolek**

**Sermon: "Idols Are So Old Testament, Right?"**

**Rev. Ann Bolek**

**\* Hymn: "He Leadeth Me" #461**

## **Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed ( unison)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son or Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting, Amen.

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

**\* Hymn: "Jesus Lover of MY Soul" #466**

## **Charge**

## **Benediction**

**Postlude and Response "This is My Humble Prayer"**