

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "

I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:18-31



The Sermon on the Mount

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

"A Blessing, A Protest and A Promise"

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

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Among us on the earth there is His memory; but in the Kingdom of heaven His very Presence. That Presence is the joy of those who have already attained to beatitude; the memory is the comfort of us who are still wayfarers, journeying towards the Fatherland." ~ Bernard of Clairvaux

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 15 (responsive)

Deacon Karen Eberle

O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart

who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "Living for Jesus"

* Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" # 92

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, out of your great love for us you teach us, and you say; "Blessed are the poor in Spirit," but we have been rich in pride. "Blessed are those who mourn," but we display no sorrow for sin.

"Blessed are the meek," but we go about boasting of our strengths.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," but we gorge ourselves on lesser things.

2023 Session and Deacons

Elders

Sue Latour - Clerk
Bob Brenner
Steve Hales
Bill Owens
Jan Owens
Bob Reese
Marty Cropper
Nancy Wright
Rich Wright

Deacons

Ann Hales
Beth Fisher
Karen Eberle
Carol Reese
Mary Snyder
Peggy Webster
Jan Phillips

2023 Session Committee Chairs

Clerk of Session	Sue Latour
Worship Committee	Jan Owens
Fellowship Committee	Marty Cropper
Christian Education Committee	Mabel Rogers
Personnel Committee	Bill Owens & Steve Hales
Building & Maintenance Committee	Bob Reese & Bob Brenner
Mission Committee	Rich Wright & Jan Owens
Financial Committee	Steve Hales & Mabel Rogers
Nominating Committee	Rich Wright & Sue Latour

Household Prayer: Morning

Blessed God, I yearn to see your vision of justice,
love, and peace
made real for me this day.
Open my eyes to the way of love
that I may see your brilliant light
shining into the hidden places of my heart
and the darkened corners of the world. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

*Loving God, you led me in the way of life this day
and now call me to the way of rest.
I give thanks for your light that illumined my path today.
Now, it is night.
As you beckon me to enter into holy darkness
where I am one with you in your realm of uncreated light,
I open to you in peace. Amen.*

"Blessed are the merciful," but we are harsh and unforgiving.
"Blessed are the pure in heart," but we continue in lust and greed.
"Blessed are the peacemakers," but we refuse to seek reconciliation.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness," but we stand by and watch with eyes closed and mouths shut.
"Blessed are we when people revile us on your account," but we do not tell the world that we are yours.
Forgive us, O Lord, and teach us again the way of righteousness, the way of truth, the way of mercy and the way of love. In your most sacred and holy name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we may be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ that we are forgiven

*** 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

With what shall we come before the Lord this day?

We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ's love.

Let us walk in humble gratitude,
offering to God a portion of the gifts that God freely shares with us,
gifts for the healing of the 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

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world.

May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation **Amen.**

Choral Anthem: "Lord, I Know I've Been Changed"

Prayer for Illumination (union)

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp.

Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory. Amen. .

1st Scripture Reading: Micah 6: 1-8 [NRSV]

Mabel Rogers

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." ⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my

Current Prayer Concerns:

Margy Kreppel, Karen Cobb Snyder, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Dawn Butler, Connie Ellis, Bonnie Hancock, Ed Hurd, Margie Bauer Cramer, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Janice Beckham, Jim Phillips, Russ Shallcross, Carol Nelson, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, and Diane Devanna

Those homebound or undergoing treatment: John Snyder

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

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up

February 5	Sue Latour & Betsy Kipila
February 12	Nancy Wright & Carol Reese
February 19	Karen Eberle & Mary Snyder
February 26	Jan Owens & Peggy Webster

Volunteers for the Food Pantry 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.

It's a great way to engage those in our community that need some extra help, while offering some much needed encouragement.

A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider participating in this much needed ministry.

February Movie Night

Our next movie night will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Friday, February 3rd at 6:30 PM.** We will be showing Sight & Sound's "David".

Master Poet. Fearless Warrior. Anointed King. After unprecedented victories lead to devastating failures, this passionate warrior will face the biggest battle of all: the one within himself.

Experience one of the most legendary Bible stories as it comes to life in this original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres.

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, Jan 29	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Tues, Jan 31	Grace Parker Setup	10:00 AM
Wed, Feb 1	Grace Parker Breakfast	7:00 AM
Wed, Feb 1	Food Pantry CLOSED	9:00 AM
Wed, Feb 1	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 1	Girl Scouts Troop # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, Feb 3	Movie Night <i>"David"</i>	6:30 PM
Fri, Feb 3	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *No birthdays this week*

Flowers: Please consider adding flowers to the sanctuary for our Lord's Day Service. You may dedicate in memory or in honor of a loved one or for a general dedication. Please contact Marty Cropper at benzgrammyinoc@yahoo.com or at 410-213-1592. The following Sunday's have Chancel Vases open:

February 5...two (2)
February 12...one (1)
February 26...two (2)



It's Girl Scout Cookie Sales Time of the Year

Your fellow congregant and member of Girl Scout Troop 812, Summer Brenner, is taking orders for delivery within the next two weeks.

An order form should be available from Summer after our Church Service for the next four (4) weeks or you may call Summer at 443-754-1485.

A supply of cookies should be available beginning today in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you all for your support of the Girl Scout Program!

P.S. We have a new favor for y'all to try this year, Raspberry Mint. I am told that it looks similar to Thin Mints and inside filling is pink and the taste is to die for. :) Just kidding.

transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "A Blessing, A Protest and A Promise"

Rev. Dan McKenty

***Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God" # 556**

*** Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

We believe there is no condemnation

for those who are in Christ Jesus;

for we know that all things work together for good

for those who love God,

who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

For the church, that she may thrive, grow, and continue to reveal the coming of your kingdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our leaders that they seek you in prayer and govern with mercy and compassion. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are persecuted in your name, that they be encouraged and comforted in their sacrifice and their mission. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of this world, that they grow to know peace instead of war. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those close to us who are struggling, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** And we pray for

We bring these prayers and petitions in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" # 380

Charge

Benediction "Go Now in Peace"

Postlude and Response



Sign-Up to Help with Grace Parker

There is a sign-up sheet on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary for those who are able to help with next week's Grace Parker Breakfast on Wednesday, February 1st. Please sign-up and let Karen Eberle know if there are any questions. Thank you!