

## **“The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes”**

Pastor Dan’s Brown Bag Bible Study Is Back!

**On Thursdays at 12:30 beginning September 28th,** hear the parables of Jesus as his disciples, the crowds and the religious authorities heard them. Step back in time and see Jesus through 1st century Middle Eastern eyes. Discover amazing new insights and perspectives on some of history’s most famous stories!

Pastor Dan is offering this 10-week course beginning September 28th. The format is casual lecture and discussion. There are no books to buy, and the only assignments are to read and contemplate the assigned parable before each class. Bring your lunch and we will break bread and learn together.

Because each week tackles a different parable, missing one or two weeks will not put you behind for the next class or, pick your favorite parables and attend then. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary.

- ❑ 9/28 The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37
- ❑ 10/5 The Parable of the Rich Fool – Luke 12: 13-21
- ❑ 10/12 The Parable of the Great Banquet – Luke 14: 15-24
- ❑ 10/26 The Parable of the Unjust Steward – Luke 16: 1-8
- ❑ 11/9 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18: 9-14
- ❑ 11/16 The Parable of the Compassionate Employer – Matthew 20: 1-6
- ❑ 11/30 The Parable of the Serving Master – Luke 12: 35-38
- ❑ 12/7 The Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man – Luke 16: 19-30
- ❑ 12/14 The Parable of the Pounds – Luke 19: 11-27
- ❑ 12/21 The Parable of the Noble Vineyard Owner and His Son– Luke 20: 9-18

Sunday, November 26th, 2023  
Reign of Christ Sunday



*Christ the Redeemer*

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City  
Rev. Dan McKenty

*“It Takes a Thief”*

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

# Liturgy for Sunday November 26th, 2023

## Reign of Christ Sunday

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** *"The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." Jeremiah 23: 5-6*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Call to Worship (responsive)

**Beth LaBrunda**

The Lord is God; we are God's people.

**We are the sheep of God's pasture.**

Jesus Christ is coming to reign.

**To God be the glory forever and ever.**

In Christ all things hold together.

**He is head of the church and Lord of all.**

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

The Lord is robed in majesty and girded in strength.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

God has established the world and God's realm will never be shaken.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord.

**Christ will reign forever and ever. Amen.**

#### Prelude

#### Choral Introit

\* Hymn "Praise Him! Praise Him!" # 106

### Current Prayer Concerns:

Thomas Simpson, James Coughlin, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Tom Taylor, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Debbie Kelly, Algernon John-Baptiste, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, and Beth Miller.

#### Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

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

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

### Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Dec 3  | Nancy Wright & Carol Reese |
| Dec 10 | Karen Eberly & Mary Snyder |
| Dec 17 | Jan Owens & Peggy Webster  |

### Adorning Our Sanctuary for Christmas ...

Today after worship, we will be decorating our church for the Advent & Christmas season. If you are able, please stay for a bit to lend a helping hand. Thanks you!



## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

|      |     |    |  |       |    |
|------|-----|----|--|-------|----|
| Tues | Nov | 28 | Mobile Showers                           | 9:30  | AM |
| Tues | Nov | 28 | W.O.W Meeting                            | 11:00 | AM |
| Tues | Nov | 28 | Book Club                                | 1:00  | PM |
| Wed  | Nov | 29 | Food Pantry ( <i>volunteers needed</i> ) | 9:00  | AM |
| Wed  | Nov | 29 | Choir Practice                           | 6:00  | PM |
| Fri  | Dec | 1  | Narcotics Anonymous                      | 7:00  | PM |

**Birthdays** *Sherry Snyder (11/28) John Langley (11/29)*  
*Bill Jones (12/03)*

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

~ In honor of our grandson Max, who will celebrate his 8th birthday on December 4th. Every shared laughter makes us happier. Rob and Ann Eicher

~ A basket of flowers is placed by Bill and Jan Owens in celebration of 46 years of wedded bliss. First Presbyterian church is where we first met, were married and raised our four daughters.

~ Two baskets are placed by Susan Merida Schott in honor of my loving children Christopher, Phillip, Katherine and Raksha, all who honored me by traveling to Ocean City to celebrate thanksgiving with me. I am blessed!

**\*\* Flower Price Adjustment beginning January 2024\*\***

Chancel Vase from \$22 to \$25

Flower Basket from \$ 30 to \$35

**\* Passing the Peace**

## Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love.

In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

All things, in heaven and on earth,  
are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ.

**Forgiveness is ours through faith in the Lord,  
in whom God was pleased to dwell.**

Know that you are forgiven and be at 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**

As a people blest, let us share that blessing with a world less fortunate, let us give a share of what we have 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**

Almighty God,  
receive our offering for the sake of Christ our Lord. Make us  
worthy stewards of your gifts and generous citizens of the

kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we pray.  
Amen.

## Choral Anthem

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Sovereign God let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 1st Scripture Reading: Daniel 7:13-14 [NRSV]

#### Elder Sou Latour

<sup>13</sup> As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup> To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

### 2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 23:33-43 [NRSV]

#### Rev. Dan McKenty

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."  
<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of

## New Member Class

Pastor Dan will be hosting a new members class on **Thursday, November 30th** at **7PM** in Fellowship Hall. If you're considering joining First Presbyterian or if you're just interested in learning more about our congregation, the PCUSA, or reformed Christianity, this class is for you! The sign-up sheet is on the glass table.

## Church Directory

There are NEW Add/Change forms on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary. Please check the directory and give us the updates. This is so helpful for all of our congregation to be able to keep in touch with one another.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Beth LaBrunda.

## Congregation Financials as of October 31, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** ((\$125,048.75 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$189,189.02

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): **\$203,853.96**

The Deacons of First Presbyterian have chosen the below gifts for our annual Presbyterian Giving Campaign. Contributions may be made by check or through the Online Giving page on the church's website. They are not just gifts, they are doorways to a new life.



**Community Garden  
\$200**

**Fishing Kit \$75**



**Sewing Machine \$50**



**Latrine \$350**



condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Time with Children & Youth**

**Rev. Dan McKenty**

**Sermon: "It Takes a Thief"**

**Rev. Dan McKenty**

**\* Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible" # 25**

**\*Affirmation of Faith – Jesus Christ is Lord** (unison)  
We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: **Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

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

From the Cross Jesus prayed to God,  
"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Let us pray for our world that does not know the forgiveness of God

and does not consider the Lordship of Christ, saying,  
Let your Kingdom come.

For the rulers, dominions, and powers of the world who exercise authority over human communities, that they may repent of war, renounce oppression, and serve the common

good, let us pray to the Lord: **Let your kingdom come.**

For the planet Earth that God has given to humankind as our home, that we may be good and wise stewards of its resources, and that those with the power to exploit its bounty may restrain the desire for selfish gain, let us pray to the Lord:

**Let your kingdom come.**

For the church universal, that all who are baptized in Christ may bear witness to his glorious reign and serve him in the world, let us pray to the Lord: **Let your kingdom come.**

For our enemies, that we may love them in the way of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: **Let your kingdom come.**

For our friends and neighbors, that we may dwell with them in peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Let your kingdom come.**

For those who are suffering addictions, illness, and disease that they may feel your healing touch and that they may be free to receive the gentle rule of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Let your kingdom come.** And we pray for ....

Almighty God,

hear the prayers of your people for the sake of our world. Let our prayers be confirmed in our lives, that we may bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus 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 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" # 252

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response

## ***Household Prayer: Morning***

God of all creation,  
I greet your new day with thanksgiving and praise.  
Do not let me neglect the needs of those I meet today,  
and keep me faithful to your ways,  
for I want to live for you. Amen.

## ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day.  
Where I failed to do your will, forgive me.  
Grant me peace throughout this night,  
and if I should die,  
welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **FOOD PANTRY**

Our Food Pantry is being utilized by many this fall and winter. If you are able, please consider picking up some of the below items to help us restock:

Soap  
Tuna Cans  
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste  
Fruit Snacks  
Fruit & Granola Bars  
Fruit Cups  
Deodorant  
Disposable razors and shaving cream

Thank you for your compassion and generosity!