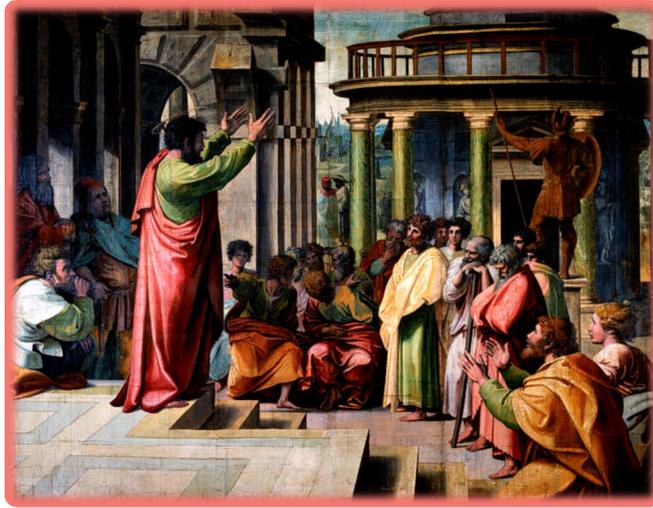


**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Sunday, May 17th, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter**



Paul Preaching in Athens ~ Raphael—1515/1516

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” ~ John 14: 15-18*

Ring of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

Let the sound of praise ring out.

Come and hear what the Lord has done,
the Lord who has made everything! Amen.

Prelude

Hymn “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” #51

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Loving God,
we do not always keep your commandments;
we fail to love you;
our conscience is not clear.
Wash us in the water of life
that we may live again
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,
our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Sisters and brothers,
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us
through the risen Christ.
We know we are forgiven, and we are at peace. Amen.

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)

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate:

Open our hearts and minds this day,

entice us with your presence.

Spark us with a word of life—

a message that we may share with others

as we seek to live Christ's love in the world.

All this we ask in the name of God,

who creates, redeems, and sustains us. 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: 1 Peter 3: 13-22 [NIV]

3 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

2nd Scripture Reading: Acts 17: 16-31 [NIV]

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching

the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) 22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Sermon: ***"Skin in the Game"***
Rev. Dan McKenty

Hymn "According to Thy Gracious Word" #321

1 According to thy gracious word,
in meek humility,
this will I do, my dying Lord,
I will remember thee.

2 Thy body, broken for my sake,
my bread from heav'n shall be;
thy testamental cup I take,
and thus remember thee.

3 When to the cross I turn mine eyes,
and rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,
I must remember thee.

4 Remember thee, and all thy pains,
and all thy love to me:
when thou shalt in thy kingdom come,
Jesus, remember me. prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith - Taken from "A Brief Statement of Faith" (unison)

In life and death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sacrament of Our Lord's Supper (responsive)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God,
we give you thanks and praise,
for on this day creation sings,
Christ is risen from the dead!
He has burst forth from the tomb
to break the tangles of despair and death.
Love is come again.
Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with the eternal chorus of rejoicing
who forever sing:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power, Giver of life,
heaven and earth declare your splendor.
Praise, glory, and love are yours.**

All-embracing God,
we give thanks for Jesus,
the risen Lord of life,
who rose victorious from the grave
and made the whole creation new.
He broke bread with sinners,
fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed,
then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said,

Drink this all of you:

This is my blood poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection,
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine,
and our lives in thanks and praise.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us
the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit upon the whole earth,
that we may proclaim good news to all the world
and rise together as children of your new creation.

Then bring us to that new heaven here on earth, O God,
where death and pain are no more
and you dwell with us forever.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

we worship you eternally in songs of pure unbounded praise.

Amen.

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

We give thanks to you, O God,
in this and every age,
for the healing power at work in Christ
to fill our world with grace.
O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for our world, for all leaders, people,
and nations,
that they we may exercise a spirit of wisdom
as we serve the common good.
Shield all who suffer from the terrors of violence and war;
bring them to safety and new life in you.
Make us one family gathered up in your love
and clothed in the power of your peace.
O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for all who long to experience the
immeasurable power of your love.
Open our hearts to sing your praises and to share
the story of your blessing,
that all may come to know our living and ascended Christ.
O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

Bless your people everywhere with food, shelter, healthcare,
and employment sufficient for our flourishing,
that all may thrive together by the riches of your grace,
and fill us with a joy for justice
that inspires us to do our part for the prosperity of all.
O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for all in sickness or in need, that they may know your healing love and the power of
Christ to bring life in the most difficult times.
Keep us mindful of the hope and great power that we have in you
as we offer your healing to others.
O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

We pray for all who have died,
that, together, you will bring us to our glorious inheritance of Christ,
the one who fills all in all.
O risen God, **fill us with your power.**

All this we pray in the name of he who was raised
to live and reign in power for us and who taught us how 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.**

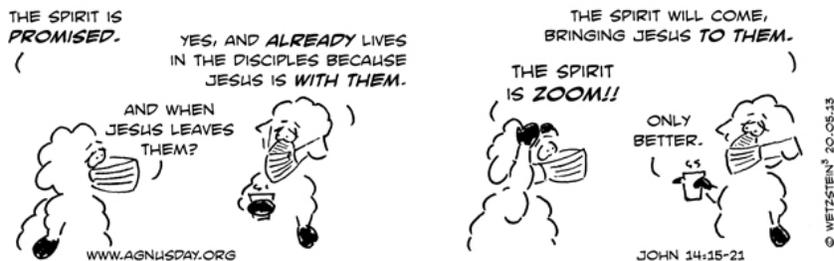
Hymn "God Be with You" #602

1 God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.
2 God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still divide you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Charge

Benediction

Postlude



ZOOM FELLOWSHIP AT 1 1:30AM SUNDAY

Where there's a will, there's a way. We've been testing using Zoom to come together online ... to see those faces and hear those voices we miss so much.

Zoom is an app that is easily downloaded onto your desktop computer, your laptop, your tablet, or your smartphone. Our Zoom Fellowship Session will start at 11:30 (after worship!) and we'll have it open for ~ 40 minutes.

If you don't have Zoom on your device yet, go ahead and download it. Use Code **71388426099** with Password **FPCOC** to join Fellowship by 11:30.

It will be so good to see you.

www.zoom.us

Plans for In-Person Worship are in Progress!

The Session is reviewing the guidelines we must follow and Pastor Dan will send a letter next week with those details and the target date for us to meet in person.

It is possible we may be ready to meet together on the 24th (this is NOT certain yet), as we first must make sure we are ready to follow the guidelines from the Health Department and Governor.

Please know that even after we begin to meet again in person, we will continue to record our worship services and publish those videos on Facebook and our website for those who want to continue to worship with us from home.