

Sunday, March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:30 AM



Moses and the Bronze Serpent

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

“Whether You Like It or Not”

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever."*
~ Psalm 107: 1

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Deacon Carol Reese

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Amen.

Prelude

* Hymn: "This is My Father's World" # 58

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God,

we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints.

We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.

Current Prayer Concerns:

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

Holy Week: This year we will celebrate Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church with a **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service** to include Holy Communion, on **Thursday, April 1st at 6:00 PM.**

The Ocean City community will celebrate **Good Friday** with a **Cross Walk** on the boardwalk on **Friday, April 2nd at noon.** Meet at The Son'Spot on Worcester Street for a short time of ministry and then proceed down the boardwalk to the Atlantic United Methodist Church at 4th Street.

The community will also celebrate an **Easter Sunrise Service** on **Sunday, April 4th at 6 AM** on the Boardwalk at North Division Street. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on the beach & worship our Risen Savior.



Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tuesday, March 16	Women of Worship	11:00 AM
Thursday, March 18	Brown Bag Bible Study	12:30 PM (via Zoom)
Friday, March 19	Harbor Island Meeting	4:00 PM
Saturday, March 20	Crab Cove on the Bay	3:00 PM

Birthdays:

Spider Fry (3/14); David Mumford (3/15); Renee Fitzgerald (3/16); Dave Frasca and Kenny Spock (3/17); Gregg Custis (3/18); Carolyn Fitzgerald and Carolyn Langley (3/19)

Flowers:

A basket of flowers is dedicated to God for his never ending love and in remembrance of Chris, our son who began his eternal life on March 20th, 2000. Loving memories bring us many smiles. ~ *Donald and Mabel Rogers*

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:

No Updates this week

Hearing Assistance

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

Food Pantry Needs this Week:

- ◇ Juice Boxes
- ◇ Eggs



We fret about the scarcity of resources
while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.
We protest the problems of our world,
but we do not actively work to address them.
Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.
Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways
that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

In the name of 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).

Almighty God,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
open your Word and illumine our darkened world,
that we may see clearly and live faithfully
by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. 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: Numbers 21: 4-9 [NRSV]

Deacon Mary Snyder

21:4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

21:5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

21:6 Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

21:7 The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

21:8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

21:9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A Hymn to God the Father

~ JOHN DONNE

I. Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which is my sin, though it were done
before? Wilt Thou forgive that sin, through
which I run, And do run still, though still I do
deplore?

When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

II. Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have
won Others to sin? and, made my sin their
door? Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did
shun A year or two: but wallowed in, a
score? When Thou hast done, Thou hast not
done, For I have more.

III. I have a sin of fear, that when I have
spun My last thread, I shall perish on the
shore; Swear by Thyself, that at my death
Thy Son Shall shine as He shines now, and
heretofore; And, having done that, Thou
hast done, I fear no more.

~ 1623 ~

You hear the cry of the sick and the afflicted.

Save them from their distress,

heal them of their disease,

and deliver them from the destructive power

of suffering.

For all who sorrow in distress,

Merciful God, hear our prayer. And we pray for

O God, in Jesus Christ

you have shown your love for the world.

Receive our prayers, grant us what we need,

save us from perishing and bring us to everlasting life. All of this

we pray using the words taught to us by your Son, our Lord and

Savior, **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 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" # 286**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

2nd Scripture Reading: John 3: 14-21 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so
that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life.

3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to
condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved
through him.

3:18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those
who do not believe are condemned already, because they have
not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

3:19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the
world, and people loved darkness rather than light because
their deeds were evil.

3:20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the
light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

3:21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it
may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Whether You Like It or Not "

Rev. Dan McKenty

* Hymn "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" # 276

* Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed (unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our 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)

Sisters and brothers,
confident in God's love and mercy,
let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying,
Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you created us in Christ Jesus for good works.

Help those who profess faith in Christ to do good in the world,
following the way of life you have prepared
for those who believe in him.

For the church of Jesus Christ,

Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Your children walk by your light, doing what is true.

Yet salvation is not earned by good works,
but through trust in your grace.

Dispel from your children arrogance of heart,
that the world may be drawn to your truth
by their humble witness.

Merciful God, hear our prayer.

In every age you call forth men and women of integrity
to lead your people in the way of righteousness.

Help pastors and teachers fulfill their calling;
give them courage to speak the truth in love,
and shield them from temptation to misuse their authority.

For pastors and teachers,

Merciful God, hear our prayer.

God, your reign encompasses all the earth,
though the nations may rebel against your justice.
Save the nations from the wrath of their disobedience.
Help them to dwell in peace and promote the
common good.

For governments and leaders,

Merciful God, hear our prayer.