

Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation



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

"Becoming the Baptist"

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, December 5th, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Religion is best when it points beyond itself, like Isaiah or John the Baptist. It is worst when it gives you just enough of the forms to inoculate you against the substance, when it substitutes rituals for reality, the container for the contents, the wineskins for the ecstatic wine."

— Richard Rohr

Ringling of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Elder Peggy Webster

We come from a world of darkness

Into Christ's world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into God's strength and hope.

We come from a slumbering world.

Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit

* Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 123

* Passing the Peace

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

Steve and Ann Hales

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together.

The candle of Hope already burns bright. Today, we light the candle of Peace.

Current Prayer Concerns: Gail, Karlah Fitzgerald, Nancy Kaiser, June Todd, Shami Maxwell, Esther Smith, Melissa Fields, Russ Shallcross, Denise, Shirley Warren, Jim Phillips, Carol Nelson, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Carolyn Walston, Jack Hood, Maggie Mazcho, Lynda, Martha Sekely, Terry Campanella, Bob Lebo, Tanya Ehlers, Andy Hales, and Lydia Frasca.

Those homebound or undergoing treatment: John Snyder, Debra Latture

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

Hearing Assistance

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

Directory Updates: *No updates this week.*

Communion: When we are celebrating communion, we will serve non-alcoholic grape juice instead of wine.

The following is the schedule of hostesses for fellowship following Sunday worship for the month of December:

Dec 5th
Dec 12th
Dec 19th
Dec 26th

Sue Latour and Mary Snyder
Karen Eberle and Nancy Wright
Carol Reese and Peggy Webster
Marty Cropper and Ann Hales

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, Dec 5	Annual Congregational Meeting	After Worship
Sun, Dec 5	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Tues, Dec 7	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
Tues, Dec 7	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 8	Girl Scouts # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, Dec 10	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: Dawn Messick - December 10th

Flowers: The large red and white poinsettias are given in memory of:

~ Chris Rogers by his parents Donald and Mabel , and Chris's daughter, Logan. Our hearts are warmed by loving memories.

~ Troy Wainwright by his parents, Graison and Bettie, his brother Scott and family and Troy's wife, Jeanne. Joyous Christmas in Heaven.

~ A basket of Christmas flowers is being placed to recognize the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and in memory of all those American (and Allies) who served in World War II. We especially remember our father, Irv Mumford III and his brothers, Paul and Bill (Navy); our grandfather, Irv Mumford Jr, (Merchant Marine); our great uncles, Carrol Mumford (Coast Guard) and Charles and Henry Ackerman (Army). ~ *David & Julie, Danny & Liz*

~ A second basket of flowers is placed in honor of our grandson, Maxwell who celebrated his 6th birthday on December 4th. Maxwell is our first grandson and brightens our lives each and every day. ~ *Rob and Ann Eicher*

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettia dedications for Christmas are due today. Each are \$9.00. The forms are on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary and can be given to Marty Cropper or placed in the collection plate. Make sure to make them out to First Presbyterian Church and note in the Memo: "Poinsettias".

The coming Christ desires us all to thrive, patiently wanting us to turn from the ways of sin and death. As we wait for the coming of the day of God, we want to be ready.

Seeking a straight path, we light this candle to guide our steps. Together, we prepare the way and strive to lead lives of holiness, goodness, and peace. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Forgive us, O Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. Help us to live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Patiently and with repentance we wait for the coming of our Lord.

Christ has come, Christ is coming, Christ will come again.

He who makes all things new has been sent to dwell among us.

Christ has come, Christ is coming, Christ will come again.

He purchases our sin with his body and his blood.

In him we are joyful, through him 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.

Invitation to the Offering

We are called by God to present a harvest of righteousness—

not by virtue of our own works,

but by the grace of the one who began a good work in us, and is even now bringing it to completion.

Let us bring the offerings of our lives to the Lord.

* 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

God of all righteousness,
receive these gifts of gratitude,
the offerings of our lives.
Purify them with your refining fire
so that they may serve your purposes
and shine with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of Life, God of Baptism, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds that as the Scriptures are read, and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, and, like John the Baptist, joyfully proclaim the coming of your Son. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4 [NRSV]

Elder Mabel Roger

3:1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3:3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 3:4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 3: 1-6 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 3:2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3:3 He went into all the region

Presbyterian Giving - A Garden Well \$1500

In addition to Operation Christmas Child, this season we will broaden our mission work through Presbyterian Giving. Our Deacons have put in place a matching challenge to purchase a Garden Well for a community in need. For the total cost of \$1500, First Presbyterian can gift a well and hand pump to provide a reliable and convenient source of clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation. Access to clean water, close to home, can transform a life — improving health, hygiene and daily living.



For every \$1 you donate, the Deacons' will match dollar for dollar, up to \$750.00.

Donations to this effort can be made by check (*note Garden Well in the memo section*) or through our Online Giving process. Please submit prior to **December 12th.**

“Prepare the way for the Lord”

- an Advent poem

Amy Boucher Pye

Prepare the way for the Lord

He's coming again

To earth; to our hearts

So that his people might know

Salvation

Lasting freedom

The forgiveness of sins

A clean slate

Wrongs put right.

Through God's tender mercy

The rising sun comes

From heaven to earth

Shining through darkness

Illuminating our way.

Even in the shadow of death

He guides our feet

Into the path of peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord

Come.

around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 3:6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Becoming the Baptist"

Rev. Dan McKenty

*** Hymn "Once in David's Royal City" # 155**

*** Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

We believe that God has come to us;

that God brought us into being,

that this God gave us breath and purpose,

that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,

that we have fallen short of this commandment

but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;

that God is not happy to leave us alone,

that this God will come to us as a particular human being,

that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,

that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his

hands in joy,

that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us;

that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,

that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue

our work,

that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,

that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,

and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect

"Alleluia!"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (responsive)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. As you promised long ago, you have revealed the majesty of your name in a little child, born in Bethlehem; he is our joy and our peace. He is our shepherd, feeding us with mercy and leading us in safety.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born of Mary, Jesus Christ is our salvation and strength, the fulfillment of your word and the hope of generations. Christ lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. In Jesus Christ, help us to live according to your will. Sanctify and shape us into the image of Christ's body, so that our lives may be a holy offering of love and praise.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Loving God, through the gift of prayer
you teach us to hold one another in our hearts.

Hear now our prayers:

for the leaders and people of every nation:

guide them in the ways of peace and compassion.

for the church and all who serve the Lord:

fill us with an evangelical spirit that we may share God's Word.

for those who suffer in sorrow and affliction:

send them your comfort and your hope. And we pray for

for refugees and travelers far from home:
bestow upon them your travelling mercies.

for all who are in prison or facing trial:

give them the strength to endure their suffering.

for those who sit in darkness, or in the shadow of death:

renew in their hearts your promise of eternal life and salvation.

Gracious God, this is our prayer: that your love will overflow more and more in our lives, in your church, and in all the world, until all may know the compassion of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord, 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: "Away in a Manger" # 157**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Go Now in Peace"

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen ... Amen ... Amen