

Sunday, November 15, 2020
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

"The Curious Thing About Goats and Sheep"

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, November 15, 2020

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *"At the end of our lives, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.'" - Mother Teresa*

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Elder Marty Cropper

Clothe yourselves with faith and love;
be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is with us!

Let us worship God. Amen.

Prelude

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Sovereign God, we confess
that we are not ready for your holy realm.

You guide us toward right paths,
but we refuse to follow where you lead.

You love and feed and care for us,
but we fail to love and serve others.

Forgive us, merciful God,
so that we may return to your fold
and rejoice in your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.

Current Prayer Concerns:

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

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.

Nomination Committee

Please help the Nomination Committee by suggesting names for the position of Elder and Deacon. The election will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting this December. The nomination forms are on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.

New Members to be Welcomed !!

On Sunday, November, 29, we will have a special LORD's Day Service to welcome new members into our congregation:

Linda Phillips

Bob & Jackie Bates

Rob & Ann Eicher

Cold Weather Shelter

Cold Weather Shelter Training (mandatory to update on Covid regulations) will be held at St. Peters Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, November 18** at 6pm and **Saturday, November 21** at 10am. They will need help with food, registration, and overnight. Please plan on attending one of the training sessions to learn more.

Directory Updates:

No Updates

Hearing Assistance

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

Calendar, Flowers, and Birthdays ... and more!

Tues, Nov 17	WOW-Women of Worship	11:00 am
Tues, Nov 17	Warriors Board Mtg	6:00 pm
Wed, Nov 18	Girl Scouts # 812	6:00 pm
Fri, Nov 20	Harbor Island Condo Mtg	4:30 pm

Flower Dedications: *Chancel Vase Flowers are given:*

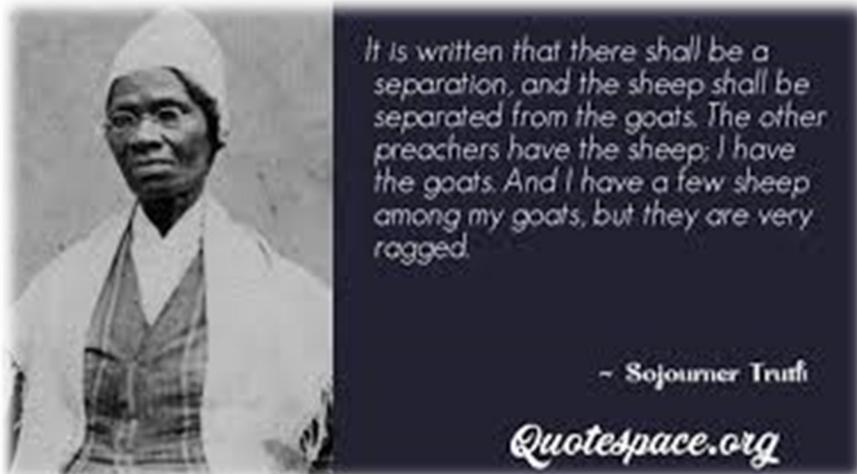
~ By Pete and Olive Hanes in thankfulness to God for all his blessings and in celebration of Olive's birthday today and our anniversary on the 28th of November.

~ In honor of two of our grandchildren, Kathryn Rose Wright and Stephen Alexander Wright and the celebration of their November birthdays. ~ Rich and Nancy Wright

~ A basket of flowers is placed in honor of all veterans who have served in all branches of the Armed Forces so that we may enjoy our many freedoms, freedoms we take for granted. Each and every service member and their families sacrifice so much. Thousands paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. As citizens of a free country, we are so very grateful and say thank you.

Birthdays:

Olive Hanes, Nathan Sauer (11/15); Shane Warren (11/17); Russell Bradford (11/19); Pete Hanes, Pat Mitchell (11/21)



Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Brothers and sisters,

God seeks the lost sheep and feeds them with justice.

Forgiven and freed, we turn, then, and live in Christ, our Lord.

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)

Holy God, open your Word.

Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,

that our eyes may be enlightened

and we may know the hope to which we have been called;

through Jesus Christ we pray. 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 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 [NIV]

Elder Mabel Rogers

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46 [NIV]

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31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Veterans' Day 2020

We are very blessed to live in a land where we are free to worship our God. That freedom and many of the other freedoms and liberties we enjoy are bought and paid for at a cost.

Today, we honor our military men and women, past and present. May God bless you, your service, and may God bless America.





Operation Christmas Child

Next Sunday, **November 22nd**, is our deadline to collect your Christmas Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. If you have any questions, reach out to Rich Wright at ocean.pines6@yahoo.com.

Christmas Poinsettias

As the Season of Advent and the Birth of our Savior Jesus approaches, we will once again have poinsettias available for dedications for our loved ones. Following the Christmas Eve Service, you may take these home with you. Dedication forms will be available at the back of the sanctuary next Sunday, November 22nd. The poinsettias will be \$9.00 each. Please return the form to Marty by **December 6th**.

Fellowship—Advent Decorating

Please join us on the Saturday after Thanksgiving (**November 28th**) at **10am**, as we meet to decorate our church for Advent. No experience is necessary—on the job training is available! It will be a wonderful time of needed fellowship while we “dress-up” our church for Christmas.



Advent Family Readings

Please check the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. We’d love to have your family (whether that’s one, two, or more of you!) to read the Advent readings and light the candles. A very tangible way to prepare our hearts for remembering the incarnation, the coming of the Christ child into our midst.

Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: *“The Curious Thing About Goats and Sheep”*

Rev. Dan McKenty

* Hymn *“A Charge to Keep I Have”* # 448

* Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe the church’s story with God did not end with the latest events recorded in Scripture. Across the centuries the company of believers has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history. It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory and shame. We confess we are heirs of this whole story. We are charged to remember our past, to be warned and encouraged by it, but not to live it again. Now is the time of our testing as God’s story with the church moves forward through us. We are called to live now as God’s servants in the service of people everywhere.

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

Through Jesus Christ, God has shown us the sovereignty of divine love in compassion for the least, the lost, and the lonely. Therefore, we pray, saying, Compassionate Lord, receive our prayer.

God, we live in a world of plenty in which the poor struggle for daily bread. We pray for those who lack the basic necessities of life and those who willingly share the resources you have given. Correct those who hoard resources out of anxiety, ignorance, or selfishness. Open their eyes to your presence among the poor of the world and free them for joyful giving. For the poor, the benevolent, and the hard-of-heart, Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, you admonish us to offer hospitality to the stranger
and to welcome the weary.

We pray for travelers,
for those who emigrate to new lands,
for refugees of political and religious wars,
and for those who have no place to call home.
Bless those who offer refuge to the wayfaring stranger.
Convict the conscience and open the heart
of any who would raise walls of self-preservation
and isolation.

For the stranger, for those who minister to them,
and for those who would refuse them,
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress.
Heal those who are sick in body, mind,
or spirit. For those close to us we pray for
Comfort them in their need and help those
who care for them.

We also pray for those who abandon the sick
and suffering out of fear.

Teach us to serve our sisters and brothers
and to share the burden of disease of body, mind, and heart.
For the sick and those in distress, for those who care for them
and those who are afraid to offer fellowship to them
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, Jesus our Lord was a prisoner of Rome
before his execution,
and he instructed his disciples to visit those in prison.

We pray for those who are incarcerated:
for those who are guilty of crime
and for those who may be unjustly imprisoned.
Save the lost, reprove the haughty, liberate the captive,
and let your disciples be a sign of your forgiving,
liberating love.

We also pray for those who work in prisons,
that they may respect the humanity
of the women and men they guard
and not be overwhelmed by the moral dangers
of their employment.
For prisoners, for those who minister to them,
and for those who guard them,
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, confirm our prayer
with the dedication of our lives to ministry;
in the name of 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 "Sweet, Sweet Sprit" # 252

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

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