

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 5, 2023



Household Prayer: Morning

God,
open my eyes to see the world through
your compassion.
Open my mind to understand the world
through your wisdom.
Open my heart to receive the world through your love.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord,
if I have lived this day in the knowledge that perishes,
correct my thoughts,
rectify my judgments,
and mend my foolish ways.
Give me the mind of Christ that I may see the world
rightly and discern the blessings you bestow.
Amen.

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

"Salt and Light"

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

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We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone." Colossians 4: 5-6

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 112: 1-9 (responsive)

Elder Sue Latour

Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "Tis So Sweet"

***Hymn "We Have Come into His House" #588**

*** Passing the Peace**

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of salt and God of light, you give us gifts to share and shine

Current Prayer Concerns:

Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Karen Cobb Snyder, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Dawn Butler, Connie Ellis, Bonnie Hancock, Margie Bauer Cramer, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Janice Beckham, Jim Phillips, Russ Shallcross, Carol Nelson, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, and Diane Devanna

Those homebound or undergoing treatment: John Snyder, 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

February 5	Sue Latour & Betsy Kipila
February 12	Nancy Wright & Carol Reese
February 19	Karen Eberle & Mary Snyder
February 26	Jan Owens & Peggy Webster

Volunteers Needed ...

We need a few volunteers, **after today's service**, to clear out the kitchen, kitchen cabinet, and storage area underneath the stairs in preparation for flooring work to be done in both areas.

We are also seeking volunteers to help at our **Wednesday Food Pantry**. From 9AM - 11:30AM greet people, guide them to the Food Pantry, and help restock the pantry from our storage, as needed. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider participating in this much needed ministry.

Seeking Mission Assistance

Our eldest son, Keith LaBrunda will be participating in a mission trip, with Beyond Tears World wide, a faith organization, to the mountainous region of Ladakh, India this July.

There they will install a commercial kitchen, replace a deteriorating roof, hang sheetrock and paint a school, teach children English, create an outdoor space for the children to have fun playing outdoor activities safely, all while helping to keep young girls safe from human trafficking.

We have posted more information on the bulletin board. If you are able and have a heart for this type of mission, any funding assistance would be greatly appreciated.

~ Lou & Beth LaBrunda

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, Feb 5	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 7	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Wed, Feb 7	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 7	Girl Scouts Troop # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, Feb 10	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: Dee Ledo (2/07) Liz Mumford (2/09)

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vase were given:

In thankfulness to God and asking for his strength so that each of us may become a peacemaker, A light shining in this world ... let your light shine before others, That they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven' ~ Matt 5:17

We have open dedications for the following Sundays:

February 5...two (2)
February 12...one (1)
February 26...two (2)

It's Girl Scout Cookie Sales Time of the Year

Your fellow congregant and member of Girl Scout Troop 812, Summer Brenner, is taking orders for delivery within the next two weeks.



An order form should be available from Summer after our Church Service for the next four (4) weeks or you may call Summer at 443-754-1485.

A supply of cookies should be available beginning today in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you all for your support of the Girl Scout Program!

P.S. We have a new favor for y'all to try this year, Raspberry Mint. I am told that it looks similar to Thin Mints and inside filling is pink and the taste is to die for. :) Just kidding.

Thank you for helping us MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE!

Summer Brenner

forth so that all may know you, but we waste our salt, and we hide our light. We talk about ourselves more than we talk about you. We miss opportunity after opportunity to be your storyteller, and we fritter away the time you give us to preach, teach and heal. Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts away from ourselves and back toward you that we may be salt and light for your world; that we may be salt and light to all your peoples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

The Word is true! The promise has been fulfilled!

That Christ Jesus emptied himself upon the cross of our sake.

He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Through Christ Jesus 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

Like a spring whose waters never fail,
God calls us to share what we have received.
Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

*** 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.

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God,

we give thanks for all you have given to us
and praise you for your astounding goodness.

Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies
for the ministry of your church.

Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom,
and give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem: "Come Share God's Gift"

Prayer for Illumination (union)

God of Holy Scripture, send your Spirit to still our hearts and calm our minds that we may meditate upon your precious Word, act upon your precious Word, share your precious Word and preach your precious Word. In the name of the One who makes all things new. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12, 13-16 [NRSV]

Elder Rich Wright

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the

your church minister to those in distress and bear witness to your abiding compassion for all who suffer. And we pray for....

To you, O God, we pray, through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever and we use the words our Lord taught us, and we pray, **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 "This Little Light of Mine"** (insert)

Charge

Benediction "Go Now in Peace"

Postlude and Response

presence, that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world.

Send us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies and to love our neighbors.

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

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

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

Almighty God, through the testimony of those who know your love you have guided us to ask for what we need. Our Lord Jesus called his disciples to live as a city on a hill and a lamp on a stand, that all may see the glory of God.

We pray for the church, the community of disciples. Grant that we, who claim the name of Christ, may shine as light into our dark world. Our brother Paul led the church, not by lofty words of human wisdom, but by wisdom born of your Spirit.

We pray for those who serve the church; let our pastors, teachers, and those who minister in the name of Christ forsake worldly knowledge that perishes and be led by your truth. Blessed are those who honor your commandments, O Lord.

We pray for our world, for the governments and for its leaders. May all who rule honor justice and compassion and serve the common good that the people may flourish.

You teach us to offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. We pray for the sick, the hungry, the poor, the homeless, and those who are oppressed. Let

gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 13-20 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Salt and Light"

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***Hymn "According to Thy Gracious Word" #321**

Affirmation of Faith – Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in

of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sacrament of our Lord' Supper

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, God of majesty and splendor. By your power you created all that is, making a universe out of chaos, and ruling over all things in love. Throughout the ages you called your people to love and serve you, and to be your light among the nations. When we failed you, you did not fail us and sent

prophets to call us back to your ways. We praise you that, in the fullness of time, you revealed your love by sending your Son Jesus to be the light of the world. He came to heal our brokenness and to set before us the ways of justice and peace. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the angels and the archangels 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. He was born to dwell among us, full of grace and truth; in him we have seen your glory. He lived for you, spoke your truth, and showed your love. Lavished with gifts from the Magi, he gave his life for others. Baptized by John in the Jordan, he poured out his mercy for all. Turning water into wine at a wedding, he transformed sorrow into joy. In his death on the cross, he overcame death. Rising from the tomb, he raised us to eternal life, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. 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 make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Illumine our hearts, O God, with the radiance of Christ's