

Sunday February 4th, 2024  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
10:30 AM



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City  
Rev. Ann Bolek

**"Jesus Hidden and Revealed"**

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**Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon  
Wednesday & Thursday**

# Liturgy Sunday February 4th, 2024

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** Lord God, the source of all good things, we pause in your presence and hold our day before you. Still us, calm us as we enter this day.

### Ringing of the Church Bell

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Call to Worship:

(From Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c and Isaiah 40: 21-31) (responsive)

#### Jackie Bates

To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?

We lift up our eyes,

We wait upon the Eternal our God.

How good it is to sing praises to our God.

**A song of praise is fitting!**

**Let us worship God together.**

#### Invocation

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, you who spread the heavens like a curtain, and make us a tent to live in, gather us in the shelter of your love, and renew our strength, that with wings as eagles we might not grow weary as we walk with you. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Prelude

#### Choral Introit "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

\* Hymn: "I Need Thee Every Hour" #428

\* Passing the Peace

#### Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

#### Prayer of Confession (unison)

God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves; God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week.

Trusting in God. We pray for transformation and new life:

#### Current Prayer Concerns:

Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Tom Taylor, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, and Baby Owen.

#### Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

John Snyder and Marie McCallister (Marty Cropper's sister)

**Berlin Nursing Home:** For all those who we are unable to visit or sing with.

#### Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Feb 11 Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster

Feb 18 Nancy Wright & Brenda Wilkinson

Feb 25 Barbara & Besty Kipila

## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Feb	6	Mobile Showers	9:30	AM
Tues	Feb	6	Setup for Grace Parker	10:00	AM
Wed	Feb	7	Grace Parker Breakfast	7:00	AM
Wed	Feb	7	Hand Bells Practice	5:00	PM
Wed	Feb	7	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri	Feb	9	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

**Birthdays** *Dee Lebo (2/7), Liz Mumford (2/9)*

## Flowers

Beginning February 2024 there will be an increase in the cost of flowers, Please make note.

Chancel vases.....\$30.00

Basket of flowers....\$35.00

vase of 3 flowers....\$21.00

Chancel vases open for dedication

02-11-24 1 vase

02-18-24 1 vase

02-25-24 2 vases

### Congregation Financials as of December 31, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** ((\$159,068.88 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$226,916.88

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): \$236,458.92

Holy One, we hope in your steadfast love, bringing our broken hearts and our wounded spirits. Make us aware of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those we treat as outcast, of those we tread down. Renew us in your grace, renew us in your strength. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Have you not known? Have you not heard? God does not grow weary with us, but loves, forgives, and renews us. Go with renewed strength in your walk of faith. Alleluia! 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.

### Invitation to the Offering

We remember this morning that God builds up, lifts up, binds up, heals, covers, and shelters us. May the gifts that we bring, and share extend these ministries.

### \* 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

Holy One, we bring our gifts and pray that they may be for the building up and lifting up of your people, for the binding of wounds and the healing of hearts, for shelter and for covering and clothing for those in need. With these gifts we offer our songs of praise as we hope in your steadfast love. Amen.

### Choral Anthem "All Honor and Glory"

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts through the reading of the scriptures that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen

## 1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31 [NRSV]

Elder Mabel Rogers

- <sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain  
and spreads them like a tent to live in,
- <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- <sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- <sup>25</sup> To whom, then, will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.
- <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and assert, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
- <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.
- <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.
- <sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,
- <sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

## The Grace of Grace

Had I the grace to win the grace  
Of some old man in lore complete,  
My face would worship at his face,  
And I sit lowly at his feet.

Had I the grace to win the grace  
Of childhood, loving shy, apart,  
The child should find a nearer place,  
And teach me resting on my heart.

Had I the grace to win the grace  
Of maiden living all above,  
My soul would trample down the base,  
That she might have a man to love.

A grace I had no grace to win  
Knocks now at my half open door:  
Ah, Lord of glory, come thou in!-  
Thy grace divine is all, and more.

George MacDonald  
(1824 - 1905)

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

\* Hymn: "Love lifted Me" # 505

### Charge

### Benediction

May Holy One, creator of the end of the earth, lift up your spirit, bind up your soul, and renew your strength. Go with hope in the steadfast love of God. Amen!

### Postlude and Response "This is My Humble Prayer"

Prayers written by the Rev. Stephanie Pardew, PhD, Director, The Damascus Project, Shared Theological Education Ministry of the Wisconsin & Minnesota Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

#### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

*In the morning, while it was still very dark,  
Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place,  
and there he prayed.*

*As I turn to you in prayer this morning, God,  
bless me with a sense of purpose.*

*As I go out into this day, show me what I am to do. Amen.*

#### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

*Everlasting God, you have been here  
from the foundations of the earth.  
I give to you this day now ending,  
with all its gifts and failings.  
As I rest through the night,  
renew my strength and, in my dreams,  
lift me up on the wings of eagles. Amen.*

they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

### 2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 29-39 [NRSV]

#### Rev. Bolek

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup> He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

### Time with Children & Youth

#### Rev. Ann Bolek

### Sermon: "Jesus Hidden and Revealed"

#### Rev. Ann Bolek

\* Hymn: "I will sing the Wondrous Story" # 508

### Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed ( unison)

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten 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 the Lord's Supper

May God be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

**We freely give God thanks and praise.**

**It is right and meet, beautiful and holy**

that we should, in ceaseless joy give our thanks and praise to you,

Holy and merciful God.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise with the church that is, was, and shall be forever. We glorify you, joining this unending song:

**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.**

Holy are you, Eternal One. You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth

Setting light into being

Casting the stars in the sky

Founding the evolving earth

And all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom.

You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.

You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus, who reached into unexpected places,

Calling women beyond the limits of their times

Equipping men for nurturing love

Welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, the light of the world took bread,

broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:

"This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And, in like manner, after supper. Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying.

"This is the cup of the new covenant poured out for you and for all. Do this, as often as you drink of it for the remembrance of me."

Life's greatest feast before us, we excitedly proclaim:

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

Dear God, you transform, all that is before you so that at the touch of your grace we are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine. You bring light to all peoples. Light to the nations, light into our hearts.

Light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit. Transform, illumine, bless.

Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup

into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing, Hold us as your own.**

**Renew us as your people, for the sake of the world you love.**

**Amen**