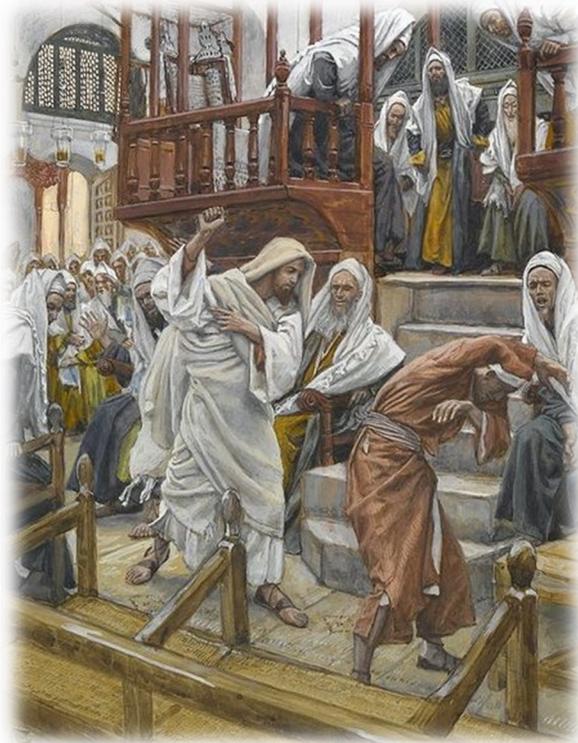


**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Liturgy for Sunday, January 31, 2021 - 10:30 am**



We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *Almighty God, Light from Light, who commands the universe and all that is made, your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken, the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive)

Organist Jacob Todd

Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Come! Let us give thanks to God. Amen.

Prelude

Hymn "All Glory, Laud and Honor" # 173

1 All glory, laud and honor To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring:
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, The King and blessed One!

2 The company of angels Are praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things Created make reply:
The people of the Hebrews With palms before Thee went:
Our praise and prayer and anthems Before Thee we present.

3 To Thee, before Thy passion, They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted, Our melody we raise:
Thou didst accept their praises—Accept the praise we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King! Amen.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Holy and all-powerful God,
who commands all spirits,
comforts those in distress,
and casts out destructive forces,
we confess that we are unable to do your will.
We protect what is familiar
and reject what is unknown.
We admire those with courage
but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth.
We forget that you are always with us,
and that with you all things are possible.
Forgive us, lead us, make us new.
Remove our desire to heed false prophets,
and show us your way;
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, Mother of us all. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

The God who made you and knows your every thought
hears you now and forgives you all your sin.
**We have been redeemed through Jesus Christ,
God's Son, our Savior, who is Alpha and Omega, all in all. 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 Spirit, your people call out for understanding.
Bring to our yearning hearts and minds
the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name. 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: Psalm 111 [ESV]

Beth LaBrunda

1 Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

8 they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 21-28 [ESV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon: "First Impressions"

Rev. Dan McKenty

Hymn "According to Thy Gracious Word" # 321

1 According to Thy gracious word, In meek humility,
This will I do, my dying Lord: I will remember Thee.

2 Thy body, broken for my sake, My bread from heav'n shall be;
Thy testamental cup I take, And thus remember thee.

3 When to the cross I turn mine eyes And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice, I must remember Thee.

4 Remember Thee and all Thy pains And all Thy love to me;
Yea, while a breath, a pulse remains, Will I remember Thee.

5 And when these failing lips grow dumb And mind and mem'ry flee,
When Thou shalt in Thy kingdom come, Jesus, remember me!

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sacrament of our 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, 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 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)

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

For the healing of Earth and all its creatures;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For the church's willingness to cast out demons in its midst,
for congregations that are in turmoil,
for the healing of divisions between the followers of Christ Jesus;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For leaders of nations,
for those who have great wealth,
for those who have too much power,
for those who have destructive weapons,
and for those who have none;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For those who are victims of others' idolatry,
for children who have no one to listen to their cries for food and shelter,
for parents who cannot answer the needs of their children,
for peacemakers and diplomats,
for those who give through charities,
and for those who use the law
to make policies for the greater good;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For all who suffer sickness and maladies of any kind and for all who are close to death, that
they may be comforted in their time of greatest need, hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**
Specifically, we pray for ...

For the wisdom to fear you rightly,
the power to withstand changes in our own lives
that bring us closer to you,
for the ability to give thanks for the people
who have brought us to this time—
our ancestors, teachers, pastors, and the martyrs of every age;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all those for whom we pray
and those it would be easy to forget.
We ask your blessing on all your people,
that we may come at last to the truth
around your banquet table that has no end;
through Christ Jesus, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, and who taught us to pray 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 “God Be With You” # 602

1 God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again; 'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

Charge

Benediction

Postlude “Three-Fold Amen”

Brown Bag Bible Study!

Pastor Dan presents a new Bible study series entitled “Equipping the Saints (that’s y’all!) – The Brown Bag Bible Series” We will first tackle the Book of Acts with a series entitled “Walking with the Spirit.” The idea is to meet together via Zoom every **Thursday from 12:30-1:30**.

We will break bread together, discuss the readings and share how the text speaks to our own faith lives. We will also catch up with each other, share joys and concerns and share each other’s company.



Munchings, crunchings, slurpings and laughter are all welcome so bring your sandwich, salad or shake and join the crowd! A Zoom link will be sent every Wednesday the day before and all you need do is send Pastor Dan or Beth an email asking to be included and you will receive the Zoom invite every Wednesday, it’s as simple as that! Because we are doing this via Zoom, we have room for lots of participants so spread the news to your friends and neighbors. Our series kicked off **Thursday, January 21st** but newcomers are enthusiastically welcomed!

Prayers, Calendar, and More ...

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

Calendar

Thursday, February 4th

Brown Bag Bible Study

12:30 pm (via Zoom)

Birthdays

Rachel Silva (Jan 31st)

Food Pantry Neighbors Helping Neighbors

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
13th Street & Philadelphia Avenue
410-289-9340 / ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com
Tuesday—Friday 9am—12 noon

During these challenging times, we have expanded our
Food Pantry at our church on 13th Street

If you can donate, come to our back door and ring the bell.
If you are in need, come to our back door and ring the bell.

Let's help each other get through this!!

