

Sunday December 31st, 2023
First Sunday After Christmas Day
10:30 AM



Young Jesus teaching in the temple

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty

"Losing Jesus"

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

Liturgy for Sunday December 31st, 2023

First Sunday After Christmas Day

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Jesus is our childhood pattern, Day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness." *Once in Royal David's City*

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 148: 1-4, 13-14 (responsive)

Deacon Peggy Webster

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD! Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

* Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" # 143

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit we celebrated your birth with song and prayer. All too often we let the season pass quickly and we resume our lives leaving you behind in that wee small manger. Forgive us Lord, forgive our haste and our distractions. Lead us back to that manger where you lie and

Current Prayer Concerns:

Owen (grandson of Kris Holmes, friend of Carol Reese), Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Tom Taylor, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Debbie Kelly, Algernon John-Baptiste, 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:

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|--------|-----------------------------|
| Jan 7 | Lisa Bayles & Jonelle Jones |
| Jan 14 | Dawn Butler & Sue Latour |
| Jan 21 | Vicki Cairns & Jan Owens |
| Jan 28 | Marty Cropper & Carol Reese |
| Feb 4 | Karen Eberly & Mable Rogers |

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting for the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City will be held on

Sunday, January 14th

immediately following our Lord's Day Worship Service. Nomination Forms for the positions of Elder and Deacon, are still available on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary.

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

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|------|-----|---|------------------------|-------|----|
| Tues | Jan | 2 | Mobile Showers | 9:30 | AM |
| Tues | Jan | 2 | Grace Parker set up | 10:00 | AM |
| Wed | Jan | 3 | Grace Parker Breakfast | 7:00 | AM |
| Wed | Jan | 3 | Choir Practice | 6:00 | PM |
| Fri | Jan | 5 | Narcotics Anonymous | 7:00 | PM |

Birthdays *Lisa Byles (01/6)*

teach us to cradle you in our own arms and carry you with us as we journey forward. To you who was born to us meek and humble and holy we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

There is no greater gift given than the Christ child. There is no greater gift given than his grace and our salvation. Celebrate the birth of our Lord!

We celebrate his birth, and we know 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

Our gifts to the infant Jesus are our time, our talent, and our treasure. We offer these gifts in honor of him and that his work may continue in this world.

*** 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

Precious Lord, infant child, savior of the world, receive our gifts of praise and thanksgiving. Receive our gifts of love and admiration. Receive our gifts that we may love others as you love us. In your most holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem "Silent Was the Night"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Gracious and Eternal God, your gift has been given to us. Your Son has arrived. Through your Spirit let us sit at the foot of our master, let us listen to his Word, let us follow his way, let us share his good news with all we meet. In the name of our newborn savior, we pray. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 [NIV] Elder Rich Wright

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord.” Then they would go home. ²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 41-52 [NRSV] Rev. Dan McKenty

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.” ⁴⁹ He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Time with Children & Youth Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: “Losing Jesus” Rev. Dan McKenty

Congregation Financials as of November 30, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** (\$142,356.00 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$208,283.82

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): **\$218,217.17**



FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry is being utilized by many this fall and winter. If you are able, please consider picking up some of the below items to help us restock:

- Tuna Cans
- Fruit & Granola Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Fruit Cups
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Soap
- Disposable razors & shaving cream

Thank you for your compassion and generosity!

**But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.**

**Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.**

**And he shall stand and feed his flock in
the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be
great to the ends of the earth,
and he shall be the one of peace.**

Micah 5: 2-5Aa

*** Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" # 131**

***Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed** (unison)
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)
Lord, as we kneel beside your manger, and lovingly behold the gift that has been given us, we offer prayers for your creation and for your people in the new year.

For your church, that the coming year brings unity and singularity of purpose. **Let your will be done.**

For the world's children, that they be nourished, kept safe and loved without qualification. **Let your will be done.**

For the rulers of this world, that they see the folly and the horror of war and turn swords into ploughshares. **Let your will be done.**

For the earth, that we become better stewards of your magnificent creation passing a verdant and peaceful world to our children and grandchildren. **Let your will be done.**

For the poor, that they be fed, given shelter, and treated with dignity and respect. **Let your will be done.**

For those who suffer from physical and mental maladies and illness, that they know your comfort and receive your loving embrace. **Let your will be done.** And we pray for ...

For the imprisoned, that they receive your grace and be given a seat at your banquet table. **Let your will be done.**

All of these prayers and petitions we bind together in your strong name, and we pray the prayer you 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 "The First Noel" # 136 verses 1,2 & 6

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Three-Fold Amen"

Household Prayer: Morning

*Morning In you, O God, I will greatly rejoice;
in speaking, I will greatly rejoice;
in silence, I will greatly rejoice;
in travels, I will greatly rejoice;
in resting, I will greatly rejoice;
in working, I will greatly rejoice;
in leisure, I will greatly rejoice;
in duties, I will greatly rejoice;
in freedom, I will greatly rejoice.*

O God, my whole being exults in you, and my life shall evermore declare your praise, my light, my love, my joy. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

*Evening Lord, let your servant sleep in peace
this night and fulfill your gracious word.
Reveal to me the salvation that you have prepared
for all people. With Jesus Christ, help me be a
light to the nations and a sign of your
glorious promise to Israel. Amen.*