

PEACE

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU,
MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU.

JOHN 14:27



On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Charles Colvin, 1676-1749

WINCHESTER NEW

Musikverlag Schöten, Hamburg, 1690

1. On *Jor - dan's* bank the *Bap - tist's* cry an -
 2. Then *cleansed* he *is* *from* *sin,* *make*
 3. We *hail* you *as* *our* *Sav - ior,* *our*
 4. *Stretch* forth *your* *hand,* *our* *health* *re - store,* *and*
 5. All *praise* to *you,* *e - ter - nal* *Son,* *whose*

nev - er - es that the *Lord* *is* *night;* *a -* *wake* *and* *hear - ken,*
straight *the* *way* *for* *God* *with - in,* *and* *let* *us* *all* *our*
rel - i - ge *and* *our* *great* *re - ward;* *with - out* *your* *grace* *we*
make *us* *rise* *to* *fall* *no* *more;* *oh,* *let* *your* *face* *up -*
ad - vent *has* *our* *free - dom* *won;* *whom* *with* *the* *Fa - ther*

for *be* *brings* *glad* *tid - ings* *of* *the* *King* *of* *kings!*
hearts *pre - pare* *for* *Christ* *to* *come* *and* *en - ter* *there -*
waste *a - way* *like* *with - er* *and* *de - cay,*
on *us* *shine* *and* *fill* *the* *world* *with* *love* *di - vine*
we *a - dore,* *and* *Ho - ly* *Spir - it,* *ev - er -* *more*

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

Pastor Debbie Johnson

Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster

Office: ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

410-289-9340

www.ocmdpresbyterian.com

Office Hours: 9AM—12 Noon / Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 40: 3-5)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Betsy Kipila

A voice cries out: "Prepare for God's arrival!

Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

Fill in the valleys, level off the hills.

Smooth out the ruts, and clear out the rocks.

For our God is coming!

Let us worship together.

Choral Introit: "The King of Glory Comes"

* Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
123

* *Passing the Peace - Please turn to your neighbor and pass the peace of Christ*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart. (Sung by choir)

Current Prayer Concerns:

Diane Ayres, Virginia Miller, Marie McCallister, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Mark Payne, Pat and Ben Steele, Joey Martin, Robert Wilkins, Bob & Dee Lebo, Margie Baugher-Cramer, and William Steger.

*** Please let the office know when a loved one can be moved off our prayer list. Call or text Beth at 862-266-6939 or email the office at ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com.***

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Dec 15 Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster
Dec 22 Ann Hales & Brenda Wilkinson
Dec 29 Betsy & Barbara Kipila

Blue Holiday Service,

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, Sunday,
December 15 at 4:00 PM. All are invited.**

Calendar, Birthdays, Flowers

Tue Dec 10	Session Meeting	1:00 PM
Wed Dec 11	Hand Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed Dec 11	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri Dec 13	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *Dawn Messick (12/10) Beth LaBrunda (12/14)*

Large Red Poinsettias are in Memory of:

~ Helen Fisher.... Remembering all the loving times spent with a very special friend brings us many smiles. ~ Lisa and Marty

~ Bob and Jackie Bates' parents ...Charles & Dorothy Zimmerman, and Gilbert and Mary Ruth Bates and Hester Bates. Loving memories.

Large Red and White Poinsettias are in Memory of:

~ Chris Rogers... Given by his parents Donald and Mabel Rogers and Chris's daughter Logan Rogers. Precious memories warm our hearts.

~ Troy Wainwright.... given by his father Graison ; Troy's brother Scott and family and Troy's wife, Jeanne; And Bettie Wainwright, Loving wife of Graison. Joyous Christmas.

~ A basket of Christmas flowers is placed in memory of our wife and sister Sue Mumford Foster as she celebrates the 10th anniversary of her rebirth in Heaven with Irv and Juanita and our Lord and Savior on December 16th, From Bob, David and Julie; Danny and Liz.

(Vicky & Jack Cairns)
Eternal Source, amid life's turmoil, we find our way by turning to you. When courage fades and trust feels fragile, your promises remain steady and true. You are the unfailing light on our path, You, O God, are our hope and our peace, the quiet strength in our deepest longing.

We call this candle Hope. (Light the first candle.)

We call this candle Peace. (Light the second candle.)

At times our souls are disquieted, weary from our own expectations. The anxiousness of life can pull us away from the promise of your peace. Yet, you offer us peace, a gift, not as the world gives, but a peace unencumbered by life's demands or the chaos of our souls. We say "yes" to the peace you give, and all that comes with it.

Call to Confession:

Scripture reminds us that repentance is part of our preparation to meet Christ. Let us therefore confess our sins together, trusting in his mercy and love.

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We'd rather you didn't examine us too closely, all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace we make our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)
 Hear the good news! Christ is our peace. Through him we have forgiveness and new hope. He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. 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
 With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God, passing the plates along the aisle as we remember that it takes all of us together to make this church strong.

Offertory

*** 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:
 Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "An Advent Alleluia"
Prayer for Illumination: (unison)
 Jesus Christ, Word of God, dwell in us as we turn

Isaiah Gave the Promise 1

The musical score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. It includes four systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics: "1 I - sa - lah gave the prom - ise toward which we work and wait. 2 His dress and food out - land - ish, this proph - et 'mid the stones 3 The power - ful and self - right - eous learn they are not ex - empt 4 For John pro - claims a new reign, Is - rael's long - sought de - sire," with chords C, F, C7, F, C, G. The second system contains the lyrics: "Pre - pare, pre - pare the Lord's road, and make the path - way straight!" with chords C7, F, C, G, D7, G. The third system contains the lyrics: "So now John's voice goes ring - ing a - cross ju - de - an sand, and brings them to the riv - er. re - pent - ant and con - tite. They are a brood of vi - pers, not saved by fam - ily name, who blows a - way the world's chaff, and clears God's thresh - ing floor," with chords C7, F, A7, D, D7, G. The fourth system contains the lyrics: "hills e - cho - ing, 'Re - pent now! The king - dom is at hand!' to find in his bap - tiz - ing both du - ty and de - light. as use - less as dead tree limbs, now fa - ted for the flame. and brings the Ho - ly Spir - it to dwell for - ev - er - more." with chords G7, C, C7, F, C, G7, C.

Women of Worship—WOW

All women are invited to come to the regular meeting of the Women of Worship on **Tuesday, Dec 17**, beginning at 11AM. There will be a creative bible study time, a crossword puzzle involving 36 women of the bible, along with other fun activities like wearing ugly or funny sweaters, a pot luck luncheon, a special rendition of the 12 days of Christmas, and more!!

We look forward to seeing you there.

The secret is Christ in me, not me
in a different set of circumstances.

Elisabeth Elliot

The Lunch Bunch Returns!

The Lunch Bunch group is resuming lunch "once a month" on a Tuesday after the holidays. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary to show your interest and express the best Tuesday for you to participate.

to these pages, holy ancient stories that proclaim your truth. In the Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4 [NRSV]

Jackie Bates

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap;³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 3: 1-6 [NRSV]

Pastor Debbie Johnson

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare

the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.
5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Time with Children & Youth
Pastor Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "Preparing the Way"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "Isaiah Gave the Promise" (page 9)

* The 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.

Sharing our Concerns and Joys

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
After pastor says "God of peace," congregation will respond, "hear our prayers."

* Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (back cover)

Charge
Benediction
Postlude and Response: "While We Are Waiting, Come"

Liturgy credit: the Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett for The Presbyterian Outlook.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Christmas Eve Candlelight service,
Tuesday, December 24 at
7:00 PM. Traditional readings and carols.**

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com.
Cell phone: (843) 568-6480.

Always available by texting or calling.