

Sunday, September 6th, 2020
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

"Past is Prologue"

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, September 6th, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11*

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 119: 33-40 (responsive)

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life. Amen.

Prelude

* Hymn: “There is Power in the Blood”

1 Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Chorus:

There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the blood of the Lamb.
There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Collection Plate

A reminder that, until we can resume our normal worship routines, our collection plate is situated on the small table in the center rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Hearing Assistance

Headphones are available at the back of the sanctuary for hearing assistance.

Directory Updates/Corrections:

No Updates



Coming Events ...

Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, **October 3rd** at 10 am in our parking lot, we will have a blessing of the animals. Come, join the fun and worship with your critters!



Neighborhood Picnic

Saturday, **October 17th** at 4pm. Rain date is October 24th.

It's time to join our neighbors to celebrate summer's end! Come meet the wonderful folks in our neighborhood at our first ever Neighborhood Picnic.



We need helpers in the following areas:

- ◆ Distributing flyers
- ◆ Setting Up Tables for Food
- ◆ Serving Food
- ◆ Cleaning Up
- ◆ Providing Food (sign-up sheet on glass table)
- ◆ Organizing Games

Please contact Danny Mumford or Peggy Webster to let them know where you can help to make our neighborhood picnic a success!

2 Would you be free from your passion and pride?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;
There's wonderful power in the blood. *[Chorus]*

3 Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow;
There's wonderful power in the blood. *[Chorus]*

4 Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful power in the blood. *[Chorus]*

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord God,
while we were still slaves to sin,
you died for our salvation.
Yet we still worship the false gods of the world,
forgetting that you are Lord.
Loving worldly wealth,
we have not loved you with our whole heart
nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Trusting worldly strength,
we have not trusted your word
nor followed the Word-made-flesh.
Forgiving by worldly norms,
we have not shown mercy to others
as you have shown mercy to us.
Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:
Who is in a position to condemn?
**Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;
Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.**
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ 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.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy Spirit,
as your word is read and preached,
pass among your gathered people,
opening minds to increase understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.
In Jesus' name we ask it. 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: Romans 13: 8-14 [NIV]

Deacon Carol Reese

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Calendar, Flowers, and Birthdays

Tuesday, September 8th	Book Club	2:00 pm
Tuesday, September 8th	Deacons' Meeting	3:00 pm
Tuesday, September 8th	Session Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday, September 15th	WOW Meeting	11:00 am
Saturday, October 3rd	Blessing of the Animals	10:00 am
Saturday, October 17th	Neighborhood Picnic	4:00 pm

Flower Dedications: *Chancel Vase Flowers are given:*

~ In loving memory of my husband, Jim Falcon, as he celebrated his 5th birthday in heaven on September 4th. God has been good to us and happy memories keep Jim alive in my heart. ~ *Love, JoFran*

~ In honor of Ben Cropper and the celebration of his 23rd birthday on September 3rd. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. ~ *Love Grammy, your Dad and Mom*

~ A basket of flowers is dedicated in memory of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, Irv and Juanita Mumford as they celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in heaven with our Lord and Savior, their daughter Sue, and their parents. Their marriage took place on September 4, 1949 in the original First Presbyterian Church, which is now the Baptist Church at Division Street. ~ *David and Julie, Danny and Liz, Phillip and Tamara and Fletcher David, Fletcher, Angie and Mykaela.*

~ The second basket of flowers is dedicated to the Glory of God and in on honor of Mabel Rogers as she celebrates her birthday on September 8th. We are blessed to have you as our Christian role Model. ~ *We love you, Dawn and Emily*

~ I'd like to wish my wonderful wife a happy 31st Anniversary on September 9th. I'm so very grateful to our Lord for bringing us together and blessing us with our wonderful family, church family and friends. ~ *Love you forever and a day.... Buzzy*

Birthdays:

Joy Steger and Mabel Rogers (9/8); Donna Greenwood (9/11)

Egypt Inside

By Alden Solovy

This I confess:

*I have taken Egypt with me·
I've kept myself a slave to grief and loss,
Fear and anger and shame·
I have set myself up as taskmaster,
Driving myself beyond the limits
Of reasonable time and common sense·
I've seen miracles from heaven,
Signs and wonders in my own life,
Yet I've taken Egypt with me,
Still waiting for the heavens to speak·*

*G-d of redemption,
With Your loving and guiding hand leaving Egypt is easy·
Leaving Egypt behind is a struggle·
In Your wisdom You have given me this choice:
To live in a tyranny of my own making,
Or to set my heart free to love You,
To love Your people,
And to love myself·*

*G-d of freedom,
Help me to leave Egypt behind,
To hear Your voice,
To accept Your guidance,
And to see the miracles in each new day·*

*Blessed are You, G-d of wonder,
You set Your people on the road to redemption·*

2nd Scripture Reading: Exodus 12: 1-14 [NIV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: *"Past is Prologue"*

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*** Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"**

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *[Refrain]*

3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: *[Refrain]*

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *[Refrain]*

*** 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)

All-knowing God,
you know our needs before we name them in prayer.
All-caring God,
you care enough to hear our prayers

knowing that all we truly need is your love.

All-loving God,
hear now these prayers that name the needs of your people:
Your people need health . . . freedom from illness, addiction, and depression.

Your people need peace . . . peace from the violence in our streets and in our homes ... peace from war, strife, and conflict.

Your people need hope . . . hope for employment, hope for an abatement of this disease, hope for a better tomorrow.

Your people need comfort and healing . . . for those close to us who are struggling we pray for

Your whole creation needs your powerful presence.

All-powerful God,

the need is so great;

we rejoice that you are greater.

Hear these prayers we offer in Jesus' name who taught us to pray to you 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 "Rock of Ages"**

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and Thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress, Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Savior, or I die!

4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment thrown,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Amen.

**Charge
Benediction
Postlude**