

Sunday, November 28th, 2021
First Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation



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

"House of the Rising Sun"

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, November 28th, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
~Revelation 22:13

Ringling of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Deacon Carol Reese

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but the Word of God endures forever.

The day of the Lord is surely coming;

the promise of God will be fulfilled. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "The Advent of Our God"

* Hymn: "O Come Let Us Adore Him" # 145

* Passing the Peace

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

Bob and Jackie Bates

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.

Today, we light the candle of Hope.

Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christmas is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we will be saved!

Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light. Together, we proclaim to the world that, in Christ, we have hope. Amen.

Current Prayer Concerns:

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

Hearing Assistance

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

Directory Updates: *No updates this week.*

Communion: When we are celebrating communion, we will serve non-alcoholic grape juice instead of wine.

Grace Parker Breakfast

On Tuesday, November 30th, at 10:00am, we'll be preparing Fellowship Hall for the December 1st Grace Parker. All are welcome and encouraged to help out! Of course on the 1st, anyone willing to help wait tables, serve coffee/drinks, and clear tables will be warmly welcomed!

The following is the schedule of hostesses for fellowship following Sunday worship for the month of December:

Dec 5th
Dec 12th
Dec 19th
Dec 26th

Sue Latour and Mary Snyder
Karen Eberle and Nancy Wright
Carol Reese and Peggy Webster
Marty Cropper and Ann Hales

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, Nov 28	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Tues, Nov 30	Setup for Grace Parker	10:00 AM
Wed, Dec 1	Grace Parker Breakfast	7:00 AM
Tues, Nov 30	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
Tues, Nov 30	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 1	Girl Scouts # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, Dec 3	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: Sherry Snyder (11/28), John Langley (11/29), Bill Jones (12/3)

Flowers: The large red poinsettias are given in memory of:
~ Our precious daughter, Caitlyn and good friend, Jim McGaha, celebrating their 8th Christmas in Heaven. ~ *Bob & Dee Lebo*

~ Helen Fisher, fun filled memories of a special friend bring us many smiles. ~ *Lisa & Marty*

Christmas Poinsettias

Marty Cropper has let us know that our Christmas Poinsettias will remain at \$9.00 each. Dedication forms are on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return them by December 5th.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting for the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City will be held on **Sunday, December 5, 2021**, 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.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

It's starting already Lord. It is only the first Sunday in Advent, and we are caught up in the pressures and stresses of the holiday season. Pursued by the temptation to spend our funds, our energy, our spirits, we feel that there is no peace or rest in the world.

Lord of light and peace shine on us this day. Forgive us when we have so easily succumbed to the anxieties and fears and temptations of this season. Slow us down, Calm our spirits. Give us the awareness that this is the season of waiting and preparation. Pour peace into our lives and help us to be bearers of peace to others. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

The wilderness will rejoice!

The dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power, let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

* 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

God of righteousness,
you have saved us from the worst the world can do
and have promised to redeem the whole creation when
Christ comes again.

In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self,
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,
as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem: "I Shall Know Him When He Comes"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Gracious God, the time is drawing near when we celebrate your gift to us in the Christ child. As we hear your Word today, let us be mindful of that which we must do in order to prepare for his coming. Make us attentive to your scripture, make us attentive to the message, make us be ever watchful for his coming in glory. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 [NRSV]

Elder Rich Wright

33:14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 33:16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 67-80 [NRSV]

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67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:
68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand
of all who hate us.
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our
enemies,
might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

Prayer for Guidance and Deliverance

Psalm 25: 1-10

In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.
I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.
Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.
Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Presbyterian Giving - A Garden Well \$1500

In addition to Operation Christmas Child, this season we will broaden our mission work through Presbyterian Giving.



Our Deacons have put in place a matching challenge to purchase a Garden Well for a community in need. For the total cost of \$1500, First Presbyterian can gift a well and hand pump to provide a reliable and convenient source of clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation. Access to clean water, close to home, can transform a life — improving health, hygiene and daily living.

For every \$1 you donate, the Deacons' will match dollar for dollar, up to \$750.00.

Donations to this effort can be made by check (*note Garden Well in the memo section*) or through our Online Giving process. Please submit prior to **December 12th**.

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Time with Children & Youth

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Sermon: "House of the Rising Sun"

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* Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain" # 138

* Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe that God has come to us;

that God brought us into being,

that this God gave us breath and purpose,

that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,

that we have fallen short of this commandment

but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our

brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;

that God is not happy to leave us alone,

that this God will come to us as a particular human being,

that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,

that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his

hands in joy,

that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made

complete.

We believe that God will come to us;

that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,

that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue

our work,

that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the

earth,

that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,

and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect

"Alleluia!"

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

Let us pray to the Lord, saying,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.

Merciful God, you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths.
You encourage us with signs of your coming
and urge us to keep watch,
that we might greet you with heads raised high
when you come to restore all of creation.
Watching and waiting, we pray for this world that needs
your saving power.

For nations at war,
in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes,
in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all who live in worry or fear,
in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness,
in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have never heard of your rescuing love,
in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all those who have lost hope, or never had it at all,
in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who suffer illness or disease of body or mind, in your
mercy, **Lord, comfort and heal all afflicted.** And we pray for

We pray, too, for your church in the world,
that we may increase in ardor for you and your children,
and work in confidence for your coming reign.

Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful,
that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day;
through Christ, 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: "The First Noel" #136

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Go Now in Peace"

Go Now in Peace

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.*

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen ... Amen ... Amen