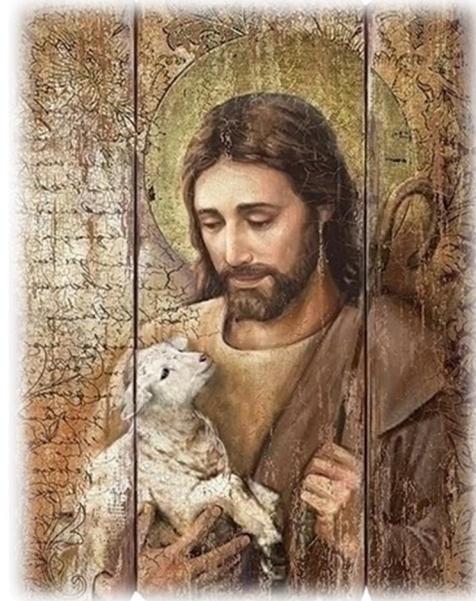


Sunday, April 25, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
10:30 AM



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

*"Life Abundant"*

Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster  
1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City MD 21842  
Phone: 410-289-9340

Office: [ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com)

Pastor: [ministerocpresby@gmail.com](mailto:ministerocpresby@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ocmdpresbyterian.org](http://www.ocmdpresbyterian.org)

Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

# Liturgy for Sunday, April 25, 2021

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** *"Know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100: 3*

### Ringling of the Church Bell

### Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship: Psalm 23** (responsive)  
**Elder Mabel Rogers**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.**

### Prelude

\* Hymn: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" # 276

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Lord Jesus, you are our good shepherd, but we come to you as sheep who have failed to heed our shepherd's call. Trusting our own voices instead of yours, we have wandered astray and have fallen into the ravines of conceit, greed, prejudice and intolerance.

### Current Prayer Concerns:

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

### 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.

### Directory Updates:

*Update:* Christie Cannon  
Remove land line, replace w/cell # 443-880-8093

### Hearing Assistance

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

### Food Pantry Needs this Week:

- \* Eggs
- \* Juice Boxes
- \* Tuna Fish
- \* Progresso Soups
- \* Small Mayonnaise Jars
- \* Dinty Moore Beef Stew



## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Thurs, April 29th Brown Bag Bible Study 12:30 PM (Zoom)

**Birthdays:** *No birthdays this week*

**Flowers:** Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

~ In honor of my granddaughter, Julie Christine and the celebration of her 17th birthday on April 30th. Grandchildren are blessings from God. ~ *Grandma Hays*

~ In memory of my husband, Leroy Cropper, Jr., who began his eternal life in Heaven on April 28th, 1995. I will always love you.

~ Marty

### Flower Price Adjustment:

Beginning **May 1st**, our flower prices will be increased as follows:  
Chancel vases = \$22; Vase of 3 roses = \$20; Baskets will remain \$30.

### Memorial Service for Wayne Cannon

Pastor Dan will be officiating the Memorial Service for Wayne Cannon on **Saturday, May 8th at 2 PM** at Holy Savior Catholic Church (the location is due to their larger sanctuary).

### CRU is Returning!

CRU is coming back to Ocean City this summer! We are so excited to hear that CRU will be back to use our facilities and worship with us. The leadership will arrive the last week of May and the students will arrive the first week of June. I have it on good authority that the Barnett family is assigned to our church which means the return of Graham and Cara! We are so blessed to be a part of this ministry! Be on the lookout and give big warm welcomes to all of our CRU friends.

~ *Pastor Dan*

### Housing needed for CRU babysitters!

The CRU adult leadership is bringing two babysitters so they may be free to lead the college ministry. The babysitters are two female University of Delaware graduates who are vaccinated and have passed background checks. While the CRU students have housing, the babysitters do not. If you know of anyone who can provide housing from the last week of May through the first week of July, please contact Pastor Dan or Beth in the office. Thank you.

Have mercy upon Lord Jesus, come find us and bring us back into your fold. Teach us again to listen only to your voice and to walk only on paths where you have led us. Protect us from the wolves of our own nature that we may rejoin your flock and once again be protected by your love. In your most holy name, we pray:

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Our Lord Christ loved us so that he gave his life that we may believe and have eternal life in him.

The message is true, in Christ Jesus we are redeemed. 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)

Eternal God, your Word is the very food which nourishes our souls. Send your Spirit to still our minds that we may listen and hear your Word. Send your Spirit to grow our hearts that we may receive and keep your Word. Send your Spirit that we may dedicate ourselves to feeding and nourishing others with your Word. In the name of the One who keeps watch over us and protects us from evil, 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: Ezekiel 34: 7-16 [NRSV]

### Elder Marty Cropper

7 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 8 As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; 9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 10 Thus says the Lord God, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

### God, the True Shepherd

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

## 2nd Scripture Reading: John 10: 7-18 [NRSV]

### Rev. Dan McKenty

7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

"When I get honest, I admit I am a bundle of paradoxes. I believe and I doubt, I hope and get discouraged, I love and I hate, I feel bad about feeling good, I feel guilty about not feeling guilty. I am trusting and suspicious. I am honest and I still play games. Aristotle said I am a rational animal; I say I am an angel with an incredible capacity for beer.

To live by grace means to acknowledge my whole life story, the light side and the dark. In admitting my shadow side I learn who I am and what God's grace means. As Thomas Merton put it, "A saint is not someone who is good but who experiences the goodness of God."

The gospel of grace nullifies our adulation of televangelists, charismatic superstars, and local church heroes. It obliterates the two-class citizenship theory operative in many American churches. For grace proclaims the awesome truth that all is gift. All that is good is ours not by right but by the sheer bounty of a gracious God. While there is much we may have earned--our degree and our salary, our home and garden, a Miller Lite and a good night's sleep--all this is possible only because we have been given so much: life itself, eyes to see and hands to touch, a mind to shape ideas, and a heart to beat with love. We have been given God in our souls and Christ in our flesh. We have the power to believe where others deny, to hope where others despair, to love where others hurt. This and so much more is sheer gift; it is not reward for our faithfulness, our generous disposition, or our heroic life of prayer. Even our fidelity is a gift, "If we but turn to God," said St. Augustine, "that itself is a gift of God."

My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it."

— Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out*

## “A Time For Us So Divine”

~ Beata Agustin ~

I always cherish a time for us of blazing love divine,  
ceaselessly prevailing passionately quenching coldness  
trying to envelop my heart... Thank You, my dearest  
Saviour for Your ardent care that never fails.

A time for us, my precious Messiah indeed assures me  
Your warm presence sealing me with Your upholding  
gracious embrace midst spiritual caress of pardon's kiss,  
marked by Your tender mercy. In a time for us around  
glowing fellowship verily kindling embers of my fervent  
adoration my soul finds comfort and serenity in Your  
security-haven exuding vibrant intimacy that sweet  
partnership offers, sublimely blissful.

Your compassion\* ignites my service in a time for us, Lord,  
to minister together keeping me blest as to You I keep  
drawing near with praise-filled confidence reverberating  
commitment whisper. Oh, I always delight in a time for us  
amidst stress as You lead me to Your refreshing pastures,  
my good Shepherd for revival fires in reaching-out pursuits  
while sharing Your Gospel toward radiant soaring along  
stewardship functions of faith's ascent.

*\*Psalm 145:8 The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to  
anger, and of great mercy.*

August 22, 2020 2nd place, "A Time For Us" Poetry Contest  
Sponsored by JCB Burl; judged on 8/27/2020.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

### Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: *"Life Abundant"*

Rev. Dan McKenty

\* Hymn: "He Leadeth Me" # 461

\* 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)

With boldness, let us offer our prayers  
to the shepherd of our souls, saying,  
God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church in every place. . . .  
Gather us together and make us one,  
one in ministry and mission to the world,  
so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. . . .  
Anoint all leaders with your wisdom  
so that they will use their power  
to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community. . . .  
Strengthen those who work each day  
to heal the sick, welcome the outcasts,  
and help sisters and brothers in need.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for friends and loved ones. . . .  
Comfort all who are suffering;  
walk with them through dark valleys  
and restore them, body, mind, and soul.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.** And we pray for ....

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit,  
help us to keep your commandments  
and to love one another with the love of Jesus,  
in whose holy name we pray using the words taught to 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 King of Love My Shepherd Is" # 468

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

.....

### *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*

