

Sanctuary Geneva

Not long after Roman Catholic Mary Tudor rose to the English throne in 1553, the outspoken Scottish reformer John Knox felt compelled to leave the British Isles. After a spell in Frankfurt, Knox joined a fellowship of religious refugees from across Europe who had thronged to Geneva.

The Swiss city's most famous resident, the French lawyer and humanist John Calvin, was himself a Geneva immigrant. His first prolonged stay in the city came years before, when war in Germany prevented him from traveling to Strasbourg.

Calvin helped create an atmosphere in Geneva welcoming to outsiders. A hospital was established for refugees, as well as an academy for their education. Knox ministered to a congregation of English-speaking refugees that met in the same auditorium where Calvin lectured, the Calvin Auditory, a building still in use today for English worship. The bustling mid-sixteenth century city reverberated with the polyglot theological and political ideas of the Reformation. Knox marveled at his time in Geneva, calling it "the most perfect school of Christ that ever was in the earth since the days of the apostles."

Calvin's emphasis on placing full trust in God, as opposed to any earthly ruler, aimed to infuse Genevan life with gratitude and faith. He hoped that the doctrine of salvation through election would ease the anxieties of a people living in an age of plague, war, and dislocation. For Calvin and for Knox, growing in trust of God and love for God enlarged a community's ability to respond to God's call to love and service, no matter where its residents came from.

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson
Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster
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Office Hours: 9AM—12 Noon / Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, October 27, 2024 Reformation Sunday

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "No man is excluded from calling upon God, the gate of salvation is set open unto all men: neither is there any other thing which keepeth us back from entering in, save only our own unbelief.- *John Calvin*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Deacon Peggy Webster

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Amen.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Let us worship the living God!

Choral Introit: "Praise Him, Praise Him"

* Hymn: "All People That on Earth Do Dwell " # 20

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

Moment for Mission: Ron Green

Call to Confession:

As we worship the living God, we remember all those who have walked this life of faith before us. They remind us not only of our triumphs, but also of our failures to be the people God has called and created us to be. With confidence that God is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, let us confess our sins:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences. We bring before you the burdens of the guilt of the past when our forbearers did not follow your will that all be one in the truth of

the Gospel. We confess our own ways of thinking and acting that perpetuate the divisions of the past. As communities and as individuals, we build many walls around us: mental, spiritual, physical, political walls that result in discrimination and violence. Forgive us, Lord. Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide, who gives us, through the Holy Spirit, ever-new beginnings. In Christ, we receive forgiveness and reconciliation and we are strengthened for a faithful and common witness in our time. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (a prayer by John Calvin)

Let us never forget you, O Lord, nor your goodness. Let the remembrance of your mercy be always engraved on our minds.

Hear and believe this good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*** 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:

Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

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:

Accept, O God, the tokens of our love and signs of pledge and commitment which we bring forward today. By your word of blessing and grace, may they blossom forth as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts, as blessings in your kingdom, as joy in Jesus Christ.

Choral Anthem: "Sweet, Sweet Music"

Prayer for Illumination: (a prayer by Ulrich Zwingli)

Almighty, eternal, and merciful God, whose Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path, open and illuminate our minds that we may truly understand your Word and that our life may be conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in all our ways we may be pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 [NRSV]

Betsy Kipila

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan,² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of

palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴ The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. ⁶ He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. ⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 22: 34-40 [NRSV]

Pastor Debbie Johnson

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Time with Children & Youth

Pastor Debbie Johnson

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, Bell Trio (Karen Eberle, Barbara Kipila, Betsy Kipila), Piano (Jacob Todd)

Sermon: “Reformation Sunday”

A sermon by Rev. Dr. Teri Thomas, Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis IN. (2002-2020) Now Honorably Retired.

*** Hymn: “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”**

(back of bulletin)

A Litany for Reformation Sunday (An Affirmation of Faith using several PCUSA Confessions)

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
(Nicene Creed)

the holy catholic Church; (Apostles creed)
the communion of saints.

This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, (Scots Confession)
because it contains the chosen of all ages,
of all realms, nations, and tongues,
be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles,
who have communion and society with God the Father,
and with the Son, Christ Jesus,
through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that (Heidelberg Catechism)
from the beginning to the end of the world,
and from among the whole human race,
the Son of God, by his Spirit and his Word,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself,
in the unity of the true faith,
a congregation chosen for eternal life.

The Church is an assembly of the faithful (Second Helvetic Confession)
called or gathered out of the world;
a communion of all saints,
namely, of those who truly know
and rightly worship and serve
the true God in Christ the Savior,
by the Word and Holy Spirit,
and who by faith are partakers in all the benefits
which are freely offered through Christ.

The visible Church, (Westminster Confession of Faith)
which is also catholic or universal under the gospel,
consists of all those throughout the world
that profess the true religion,
together with their children;
and is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ;
the house and family of God.

The visible church has the privilege (Larger Catechism)
of being under God's special care and government;

of being protected and preserved in all ages,
notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies;
and of enjoying the communion of saints,
the ordinary means of salvation,
and offers of grace by Christ, to all members of it,
in the ministry of the gospel,
testifying that whosoever believes in him shall be saved,
and excluding none that will come unto him.

The church's commission, (Theological Declaration of Barmen)
upon which its freedom is founded,
consists in delivering the message
of the free grace of God
to all people in Christ's stead,
and therefore in the ministry
of his own Word and work
through sermon and Sacrament.

The church confesses its faith (Confession of 1967)
when it bears a present witness
to God's grace in Jesus Christ.
The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.
The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve
is to confess Christ as Lord.

With believers in every time and place (Brief Statement of Faith)

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sharing our Concerns and Joys

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
(adapted from prayers by John Knox))

*** Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" # 26**
(by Martin Luther)

Charge

Benediction *Numbers 6:24–26, as used in John Calvin's Strasbourg Liturgy)*

Postlude and Response: "God Be With You"

Liturg credit: Worship Blogspot, The Rev. Matthew A. Rich for The Presbyterian Outlook

Next **Sunday, November 3**, we will be celebrating All Saints Day.

Deacons:

We will be meeting next **Sunday, November 3rd** after our Worship Service.

Announcement for Bible Study

We will be continuing our Bible study of the book of Philippians **this Thursday at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Please read in advance: **Philippians 3: 1-21.**

GAME NIGHT—SAVE THE DATE

What: Game Night

When: **Tues, Oct 29th 7—9:00p.m.**

Bring a game, deck of cards and join your church family for an evening of fun and fellowship!

THANKSGIVING DINNER—SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner

WHEN: After Worship - November 10th

There is a sign up sheet on the table in the back of the Sanctuary
More information to follow about dinner

Pastor Debbie is now in Ocean City from **Sunday through Thursday**. She is always available by texting or calling:
843-568-6480

or via email:

djhj3675@gmail.com

Grace Parker Breakfast Coming!

The First Grace Parker Breakfast Wednesday, November 6 from 7:00-11:00 AM.

Help is always needed.

Congregation Financials as of September 30, 2024:

(\$110,558.25 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$170,740.07

Total parking lot receipts for Oceans and Country Calling (5 days): \$14,393

- Year-to-date disbursements: \$124,358.91

Note: A bookkeeping change was made to charge \$20,166 against Capital Improvement for the new windows installed in the Manse in 2023. Capital Improvement balance now stands at \$89,666.08.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

There are 4 copies of the book on the back table for you to borrow, read, and return. It is a quick read, a book written for children, who may not get all of the nuances, but great learning for adults. Highly entertaining! Please sign the sheet when you take the book and cross off your name when you return it.

We've selected **Wednesday, November 20th** at the Flagship Cinema in West Ocean City. We'll meet in at the theatre at **2:00 PM**.



Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues Oct 20	Game Night!	7:00 PM
Wed Oct 30	Hand Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed Oct 30	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Thu Oct 31	Bible Study—Philippians	11:00 AM
Fri Nov 1	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Sun Nov 3	Deacons' Meeting after Worship	11:45 AM

Birthdays: Bob Lebo (10/27) Bob Reese (10/29)
Ryan Sauer (10/30) and Judie Kisly (11/2)

Flowers: No Flowers.

Dedications OPEN for November 17th and 24th

Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is underway! The shoeboxes and packing information are on the round table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return your boxes to the church no later than **November 3rd**. You may choose either the cardboard or plastic shoebox on the table. **NOTE:** Please make sure you remove **ALL** packaging before packing your box.

Questionnaire Reminder:

If you have not yet picked up your questionnaire for the Mission Study Team, please pick one up today and sign your name on the sheet so that team members will know that you have taken one. Those not signing the sheet will have questionnaires mailed to them. Please note that the questionnaire is two (2) sheets.

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 366

*Je te salue, mon certain Redempteur, anon. in Strasbourg Psalter (1553);
tr. Elizabeth L. Smith, 1868 (alt'd)*

TOULON, 10 10.10 10

Abridged (c. 1860) from Psalm 124 in the Genevan Psalter (1551)

1. I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
3. Thou art the Life, by which a - lone we live,
4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,

1. my on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,
2. reign - ing om - nip - o - tent in ev - 'ry place:
3. and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
4. no harsh - ness hast thou and no bit - ter - ness:

1. who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
2. so come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
3. sus - tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
4. O grant to us the grace we find in thee,

1. I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
2. shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
3. and give us strength in ev - 'ry try - ing hour.
4. that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.

5. Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.