

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Boonsboro, Maryland
301-432-2278
Rev. Ciara Simonson
Sunday, January 31, 2021 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Worship Service 10:00 am

Organist – Greg Martin
Elders – Fran Cockerham and Condo Slick
Lay Leader – Malakai Riddle

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3331109127?pwd=VWVoOFITSGdXTm9pV2pMdE1DUnZ5UT09>

Phone number: (301) 715 8592
Meeting ID: 333 110 9127
Passcode: 21713

Greeting and Welcome- Richard Riddle

Announcements – Richard Riddle

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn - #688 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

V1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

V2 We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the Guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.

V3 Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful tho' we be
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.

V4 Early let us seek Thy favor; Early let us do Thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our beings fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Responsive Reading- Psalm 111:1-10

L – Praise the Lord. I thank the Lord with all my heart in the company of those who do right in the congregation.

All – The works of the Lord are magnificent; they are treasured by all who desire them. God’s deeds are majestic and glorious. God’s righteousness stands forever.

L – God is famous for his wondrous works. The Lord is full of mercy and compassion. God gives food to those who honor him. God remembers his covenant forever. God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people and gave them what had belonged to other nations.

All – God’s handiwork is honesty and justice; all God’s rules are trustworthy – they are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing.

L – God sent redemption for this people; God commanded that his covenant last forever. Holy and awesome is God’s name.

All – Fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God’s laws. God’s praise lasts forever.

Gloria Patri: **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.**

Joys and Concerns

Interlude for Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Threefold Amen

Children’s Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading

The Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. He’s the one you must listen to. ¹⁶ That’s exactly what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, “I can’t listen to the Lord my God’s voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don’t want to die.”

¹⁷ The Lord said to me: What they’ve said is right. ¹⁸ I’ll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites – one just like you. I’ll put my words in his mouth, and he

will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I, myself, will hold accountable anyone who doesn't listen to my words, which that prophet will speak in my name. ²⁰ However, any prophet who arrogantly speaks a word in my name that I haven't commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods – that prophet must die.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹ Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. ² If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. ³ But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

⁴ So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. ⁵ Granted, there are so-called "gods", in heaven and one the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. ⁶ However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father.
All things come from him,
And we belong to him.
And there is one Lord Jesus Christ.
All things exist through him
And we live through him.

⁷ But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. ⁸ Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. ⁹ But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. ¹⁰ Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? ¹¹ The weak brother or sister from whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. ¹³ This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

The Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath, Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. ²² The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. ²³ Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, ²⁴ "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

²⁵ “Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The unclean spirit shook him and screamed then it came out.

²⁷ Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” ²⁸ Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

Sermon

Offering

The Doxology: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn – #638 I Need Thee Every Hour

V1 I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord,
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford

Refrain

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

V2 I need Thee every hour, Stay Thou nearby,
Temptations lose their pow’r when Thou art nigh [Refrain]

V3 I need Thee every hour, In joy or pain
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain. [Refrain]

V4 I need Thee every hour, Most Holy One;
O make me and Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son. [Refrain]

Prayers of the Elders
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn - #676 O Jesus, I Have Promised

V1 O Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end;

Be Thou forever near me My Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,
Not wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

V2 O Let me feel Thee near me, the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear:
My foes are ever near me, around me and within,
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

V3 O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

V4 O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory, There shall Thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my Friend.

Benediction

Postlude