# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

MARCH 14, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Minister: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs for the courts of the Lord. My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

All: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

Minister: Blessed are those whose strength is in You.

All: For a day in your courts is better that a thousand elsewhere. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

HYMN\*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began; Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife, Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

responsive reading adapted from 1 Peter 2.4-6

Minister: Come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him.

All: Because we also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

ODE TO JOY

from Psalm 84

## SONG OF PRAISE

#### He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path; For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast; Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *Chorus* 

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! *Chorus* 

## PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Let us confess our sins before our righteous and holy God.

All: O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn and quick to forget. I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, and my sullied conscience. I am blind while your grace shines around me: take the scales from my eyes and help me to repent of my unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study thee, meditate on thee, and gaze on thee. Enable me, by your Spirit, to grow in grace so that there may be more fervor in my devotion and more constancy in my zeal. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ: For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Children's Time (10:30 service only)

After the intercessory prayer, children in kindergarten through 3rd grade and their teachers may exit the sanctuary through the north doors of the sanctuary. Teachers will return with the children after the sermon. Parents may meet them by the north entrance, or children may join their parents at their seats.

#### SCRIPTURE READING\*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Please see insert.)

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Lost and Found

Luke 15.1-32

Rev. David Rea

Ephesians 2:8-9

adapted from The Valley of Vision

MERKER

### THE LORD'S TABLE

All those who trust in Christ alone for their salvation, are baptized, and belong to a Bible believing church are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper together, feeding on the grace of God by faith. If you have not put your trust in Christ, please allow the elements to pass you by and take this opportunity to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel.

A word to parents: Baptized children are invited to the table after they have made a profession of faith and been received as communing members by the Session of the church to which their parents belong.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### Hymn\*

#### How Deep the Father's Love for Us

TOWNEND

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away, As wounds which mar the chosen One, bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, call out among the scoffers It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

## **BENEDICTION\***

Minister: May the blessing of God Almighty, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you all now and forever.

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# Luke 15.1-32

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

# Luke 15.1-32 (cont.)

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"