

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

OCTOBER 8, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Proverbs 3.5; Psalm 119.24; Psalm 19.7; Psalm 150.6

Minister: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

All: Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMN*

Come, Christians, Join to Sing | No. 302

MADRID

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

Minister: Christian, what do you believe?

All: 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he shall come to judge the living 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.

**Meaning the universal Christian church – all believers in Jesus Christ*

SONG OF PRAISE

God of Grace

Getty, Rea

God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free;
Oh, the miracle of mercy, Jesus reaches down to me.
God of grace, I stand in wonder, as my God restores my soul:
His own blood has paid my ransom, awesome cost to make me whole.

God of grace, who loved and knew me long before the world began;
Sent my Saviour down from heaven: perfect God and perfect man.
God of grace, I trust in Jesus, I'm accepted as His own.
Every day new grace sustains me as I lean on Him alone.

God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed, forgiven and secure.
All my fears are now confounded, and my hope is ever sure.
God of grace, now crowned in glory, where one day I'll see Your face;
And forever I'll adore You in Your everlasting grace.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Heavenly Father, we confess that in our pride and self-reliance, we frequently ignore your divine wisdom. Driven by our sinful desires, we often choose to trust in our own limited understanding rather than submit to the boundless wisdom you graciously extend. Father, this is our sin: setting aside the wisdom of your Word, believing, that our perspectives are superior. Forgive us, we pray. Through Christ, you have shown us the epitome of wisdom—a wisdom that took him to the cross on our behalf. May we humble ourselves, recognizing our need for your wisdom in every moment of every day. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 5:1

Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ: Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNICANT VOWS

<i>Adelaide Breed</i>	<i>Andrew Freiburger</i>
<i>Andrew Cooper</i>	<i>Josh Owens</i>
<i>Ann Holland Crow</i>	<i>Noelle Robertson</i>
<i>James Edwards</i>	

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Andrew Freiburger

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Children's Time

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.

¹ The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴ They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵ They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

⁷ When the Israelites cried out to the LORD because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

¹¹ The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

¹³ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

¹⁵ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

¹⁶ The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

¹⁷ Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.”

And the LORD said, “I will wait until you return.” (NIV, 1984)

SERMON **Signs, Fleece, and Faith: God’s Wisdom in Uncertainty** *Rev. David Rea*

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

The Perfect Wisdom of Our God

Getty, Townsend

The perfect wisdom of our God, Revealed in all the universe:
 All things created by His hand, And held together at His command.
 He knows the mysteries of the seas, The secrets of the stars are His;
 He guides the planets on their way, And turns the earth through another day.

HYMN OF RESPONSE (CONT.)

The matchless wisdom of His ways, That mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet, His Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And oh, the mystery of the cross, That God should suffer for the lost
So that the fool might shame the wise, And all the glory might go to Christ!

Oh grant me wisdom from above, To pray for peace and cling to love,
And teach me humbly to receive The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place Within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say: "Your perfect will in your perfect way."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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. Please hold the bread, and we will partake together. Please drink the cup as you receive it.*

The outer ring is grape juice and the inner rings are wine.

During the bread

Rock of Ages | No. 500

NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP

Stanzas 1-4

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labor of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

During the cup

Instrumental

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN*

Lift High the Cross | No. 263
Stanzas 1, 3, and 5

CRUCIFER

*Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, brethren, follow where our Savior trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw men unto thee.

Refrain

For thy blest cross which doth for us atone,
Creation's praises rise before thy throne.

Refrain

BENEDICTION*

Numbers 6.24-26

Minister: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give
you peace.

Judges 6.19-40

¹⁹ Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

²⁰ The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. ²² When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

²⁵ That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶ Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

²⁸ In the morning when the people of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

²⁹ They asked each other, "Who did this?"

When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

³⁰ The people of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

³¹ But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar." ³² So because Gideon broke down Baal's altar, they gave him the name Jerub-Baal that day, saying, "Let Baal contend with him."

³³ Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. ³⁵ He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

³⁶ Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised --
³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." ³⁸ And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew -- a bowlful of water.

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew." ⁴⁰ That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew. (NIV, 1984)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOW (Women of Wisdom) October Fellowship

Please join us for a fun day at the Dallas Arboretum on Friday, October 20. We will meet at Gate 1 at 10 a.m. to see the pumpkins and then have lunch at the DeGolyer House at 11:30 a.m. You can RSVP to Becky Hendricks at 214.232.0777 by Monday, October 16. You are welcome to come just to see the pumpkins or just have lunch, or both! All ladies 55ish and up are invited to attend.

Grieving A Loss?

Come to GriefShare on Wednesday, November 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Discover hope and healing after the loss of a loved one. We are offering a special session designed to support those grieving. In this 90-minute gathering, you have the freedom to listen, reflect, feel, share, or simply be present in any way that is comfortable for you. There's no need to prepare or feel obligated to participate. However, your insights and feelings can enrich our guided discussion. Together, we'll listen, share, cry, laugh, pray, and find comfort in each other's company. If you're interested in taking advantage of this free GriefShare session, please contact the church office at office@providencedallas.com. This session will be led by Robby Rucker.

New Members Class

If you are interested in joining Providence or just learning more about PPC, then please save the date and plan to join us for our next new members class. We will meet on Sunday, December 3, 8-10 a.m. before worship. For more information and to sign up, email Allyson Crow at office@providencedallas.com.

Weekly Update

If you would like to receive our weekly email that includes announcements, information about Bible studies, and details about upcoming events, please email office@providencedallas.com. We would be happy to include you!

Stephen Nielson, piano

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PROVIDENCE
Presbyterian Church

Ruling Elders

Graham Averitt	Jeff Crow	Tom McCabe
Wes Boyd	John Heath	
Michael Breed	Joshua Kipp	

Deacons

Dan Bowers	Jack Mechem	David Sibley
Teddy Chu	Casey Plummer	
T.J. Edwards	Will Schoellkopf	