

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Order of Worship*

JULY 21, 2024

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Philippians 2.8-11*

Minister: And being found in appearance as a man, Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

**All:** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

*from Colossians 1.15-20*

Minister: Who is Jesus Christ?

**All:** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

## 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

*from Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration*

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

**All:** Heavenly Father, you have brought us into your kingdom, but we run from you daily and worship other gods. We often love food, money, titles, possessions, family, and friends more than we love you. We crave approval, power, respect, and comfort, and are often willing to sin to get them. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to despise the false security, comfort, and pleasure our sins offer, so that we might be more fully devoted to Christ, in whom we find delight, fulfillment, and true rest. Amen.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

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*

*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\*

#### **Acts 17.16-31**

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babblers wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for:

" 'In him we live and move and have our being';  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
" 'For we are indeed his offspring.'"

SCRIPTURE READING\* (CONT.)

<sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

SERMON

**The Unknown God Unveiled in Christ**

*Rev. David Rea*

HYMN OF RESPONSE\*

***In Christ Alone***

*Getty, Townend*

In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song,  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all —  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied,  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid —  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

## HYMN OF RESPONSE\* (CONT.)

No guilt in life, no fear in death —  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me,  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand,  
Till He returns or calls me home —  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

## 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*

### **O Great God**

*Kauflin*

O great God of highest heav'n, occupy my lowly heart.  
Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel pow'r.  
Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war.  
You have loved and purchased me, make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice  
Did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.  
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me  
Through the gospel of Your Son gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on Your grace.  
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.  
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed.  
O great God of highest heav'n, glorify Your Name through me.

*During the cup*  
*Instrumental*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**CLOSING HYMN\***

***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* | No. 521**  
*Stanzas 1, 2, and 4*

SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness,  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Chorus: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace,  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. *Chorus*

**BENEDICTION\***

Minister: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you from this time forth and forevermore.