

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Order of Worship*

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Psalm 67.1-5*

Minister: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us. That your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

**All:** May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

## HYMN\*

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing | No. 457*

NETTLETON

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come,  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be,  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*adapted from Philippians 3.8-9*

Minister: Christian, where do we find true righteousness and worth?

**All:** I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I consider them as worthless, that I may gain Christ. And being found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that righteousness which is through faith in Christ. The righteousness that comes from God and is received through faith.

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *The Perfect Wisdom of Our God*

*Getty, Townend*

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.

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."

## PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

**All:** Heavenly Father, we confess that we often journey through life with heavy hearts and anxious minds. We frequently become sinfully preoccupied with our health, family, finances, and work, living as though you do not exist. Father, forgive us for our fearful and doubting hearts. Thank you for our precious Savior, Jesus, who endured the storms of life and bore the consequences of our sinful rebellion and lack of trust. When trials and temptations come, help us to look to Christ and find our peace in Him. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## NEW MEMBER VOWS

*Amy and Michael Biavati      Suna and Justin Steffen,  
Paige Richey                      Olympia and Penelope  
Emma Starcher                  Nancy Tredway  
Justine Tucker*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Penelope Nahae Steffen*

## 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\*

**Zechariah 1.1-17**

<sup>1</sup> In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: <sup>2</sup> “The LORD was very angry with your ancestors. <sup>3</sup> Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the LORD Almighty. <sup>4</sup> Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Where are your ancestors now? And the prophets, do they live forever? <sup>6</sup> But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors?

“Then they repented and said, ‘The LORD Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’”

## SCRIPTURE READING\* (CONT.)

<sup>7</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo.

<sup>8</sup> During the night I had a vision, and there before me was a man mounted on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses. <sup>9</sup> I asked, “What are these, my lord?” The angel who was talking with me answered, “I will show you what they are.”

<sup>10</sup> Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, “They are the ones the LORD has sent to go throughout the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> And they reported to the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the angel of the LORD said, “LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?” <sup>13</sup> So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

<sup>14</sup> Then the angel who was speaking to me said, “Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, <sup>15</sup> and I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they went too far with the punishment.’

<sup>16</sup> “Therefore this is what the LORD says: ‘I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,’ declares the LORD Almighty.

<sup>17</sup> “Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’ ”

SERMON

The Measuring Line of God’s Mercy

Rev. David Rea

## HYMN OF RESPONSE\*

### *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Getty, Papa

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong.  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*Refrain: O sing Hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing Hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? *Refrain*

Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore. *Refrain*

## 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*

***Behold the Lamb***

Getty

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,  
Slain for us - and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
Torn for you - eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,  
Paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.

*During the bread (cont.)*

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
Shed for you - drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
To respond, - and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering,  
We proclaim Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King.

*During the cup*

*Instrumental*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## **CLOSING HYMN\***

### ***All Praise to Christ***

All praise to Christ, our Lord and King divine,  
Yielding his glory in his love's design,  
That in our darkened hearts his grace might shine: Alleluia!

Christ came to us in lowliness of thought,  
By him the outcast and the poor were sought,  
And by his death was our redemption bought: Alleluia!

And so we see in God's great purpose how  
Christ has been raised above all creatures now,  
And at his name shall every nation bow: Alleluia!

**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.