

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

MARCH 9, 2025

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Hebrews 12:1-2

Minister: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

All: Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Who, for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMN*

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

Stanzas 1-3

I sing th' almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food,
He formed the creatures with his word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes your glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care.
And everywhere that man can be, you, God art present there.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

from Westminster Confession of Faith, 8.8

Minister: How does Christ apply the redemption He has purchased for His people?

All: To all those for whom Christ purchased redemption, He certainly and effectually applies and communicates it. He intercedes for them and reveals to them, through His Word, the mysteries of salvation. By His Spirit, He effectively persuades them to believe and obey, and governs their hearts by His Word and Spirit. By His almighty power and wisdom, He overcomes all their enemies in such ways as are most fitting to His wonderful and unsearchable purposes.

SONG OF PRAISE

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

INDELIBLE GRACE

O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine oceans depths its flow
May richer fuller be.

O light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Gracious Father, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts and treasures of this world rather than of your enduring Kingdom. We have loved Your gifts more than we have loved You. We plead for your forgiveness through the riches of Jesus Christ. Accept His worthiness for our unworthiness, His sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, and His glory for our shame. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 1:7, Romans 4:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

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*

Matthew 15.1-20

¹ Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." ³ He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ⁵ But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," ⁶ he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

⁸ " 'This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
⁹ in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

¹⁰ And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." ¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

The King in All His Beauty

Papa, Boswell

O lift your eyes to heaven, see the Holy One eternal.
Behold the Lord of majesty, exalted in His temple.
As symphonies of angels' praise now strain to sound His glory.
Come worship, fall before His grace, the King in all His beauty.

*Refrain: How worthy, how worthy,
How worthy, the King in all His beauty.*

Now see the King who wears a crown, one made of shame and splinters.
The sacrifice for ruined man, the substitute for sinners.
As earth is stained with royal blood, and quakes with love and fury.
He breathes His last and bows His head, the King in all His beauty.

Refrain

Now see the Savior lifted up, the Lamb who reigns in splendor.
The hope of every tribe and tongue, His kingdom is forever.
Bring praise and honor to His courts. Bring wisdom, power, blessing.
For endless ages we'll adore the King in all His beauty.

Refrain Repeat 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

What Wondrous Love is This | No. 261

WONDROUS LOVE

Stanzas 1-3

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity, I'll sing on!

During the cup

Instrumental

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN*

Amazing Grace | No. 460

AMAZING GRACE

Stanzas 1, 2, 3 and 6

Amazing grace! - how sweet the sound - that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

BENEDICTION*

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