

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Order of Worship*

APRIL 3, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Variants on Dives and Lazarus (excerpt)*

*R. Vaughan-Williams  
arr. Jonathan R. Smith*

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Psalm 130*

Minister: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

**All: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

Minister: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**All: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

HYMN\*

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus! | No. 535*

EBENEZER

*Stanzas 1-3*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love,  
Leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore,  
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore.  
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own,  
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me,  
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

Minister: How was Christ humiliated?

**All: Christ was humiliated: by being born as a man and born into a poor family; by being made subject to the law and suffering the miseries of this life, the anger of God, and the curse of death on the cross; and by being buried and remaining under the power of death for a time.**

THE FIRST READING

*Luke 22:1–20*

*The Preparation and the Supper*

<sup>1</sup> Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. <sup>2</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

<sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. <sup>4</sup> He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup> And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup> So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” <sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” <sup>10</sup> He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup> and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” <sup>13</sup> And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *Lamb of God*

T. Paris

Your only Son no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side,  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love they crucified.  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died.  
The humble King, they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

*Chorus: Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the Holy Lamb of God.  
Oh wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.*

I was so lost I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side,  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God.

*Chorus*

## PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Valley of Vision*

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

**All:** Heavenly Father, every part of my mind, will, and emotions is a snare to me. I can scarcely open my eyes before I begin to envy those above me, or despise those below.

**Am I beautiful or handsome? What fuel for pride!**  
**Am I unattractive? What an occasion for complaint!**  
**Am I gifted? How I long for applause!**  
**Am I lacking in education or accomplishment? How I despise what I do not have!**  
**Am I in authority? How often I abuse my trust and serve my own interests!**  
**Am I rich? How exalted I become!**

Dear Lord, you know that all these are snares, and that my greatest snare is myself. Keep me ever mindful of my sinfulness, but never let me forget my union with Christ, or the grace that can deal with every sin. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 2.24

Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

### THE SECOND READING

#### *Luke 22:39–54*

#### *The Agony and the Arrest*

<sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.

<sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

<sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. <sup>48</sup> He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” <sup>49</sup> And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” <sup>54</sup> Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance.

What tongue could tell my Savior's love,  
What song of angels could describe;  
Could endless praises be enough  
To echo full His sacrifice?  
How worthy is the Lamb of God  
Beyond all might or skill of pen;  
Still we confess and strain towards  
Such mystery and magnificence.

*Chorus:*

*My Savior's love, My Savior's love,  
What could compare,  
What tongue could tell my Savior's love?*

What tune could carry on its wings  
The beauty of that final breath;  
What words dare paint the awesome scene  
When God stood in the stead of man?  
When Jesus Christ the radiant One  
Took on the shadows of our hate;  
Then rose again just as the sun  
With light and power in fullest grace.

*Chorus*

And when in death this tongue is stilled,  
My song of life has reached the end;  
Though as a flower I may wilt  
This everlasting truth will stand.  
No death or life could separate  
Me from the love of Christ my Lord;  
This hope is sure from age to age  
My song will be forevermore.

*Chorus*

*Repeat Chorus*

## THE THIRD READING

## Luke 22:55–23:18

### *The Denial and the Sentence*

22 <sup>55</sup> And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. <sup>56</sup> Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” <sup>57</sup> But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” <sup>58</sup> And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” <sup>59</sup> And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. <sup>64</sup> They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” <sup>65</sup> And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, <sup>67</sup> “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, <sup>68</sup> and if I ask you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” <sup>70</sup> So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup> Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

23 <sup>1</sup> Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” <sup>3</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” <sup>5</sup> But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. <sup>9</sup> So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

## THE THIRD READING (CONT.)

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.”

<sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas—”

## HYMN

### *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!

## THE FOURTH READING

**Luke 23:25–43**

*The Crucifixion*

<sup>25</sup> So he released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

<sup>26</sup> And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup> But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup> For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

## SERMON

*Dr. Sinclair Ferguson*

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

### *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.

## HYMN OF PREPARATION (CONT.)

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.

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.

## 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 Sacred Head, Now Wounded | No. 247**

PASSION CHORALE

*Stanzas 1-3*

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.  
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

What Thou, my Lord, has suffered was all for sinners' gain.  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place.  
Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O Make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee!

*He who healed our sorrows here was bruised and broken  
He whose love no end knows here was forsaken, left all alone.  
Here despair cries boldly, claiming this its victory.  
Sweeter peace enfolds me:  
Hope did not die here, but here was given.  
Here is Hope.  
He who was rejected, He knows well my longing.  
He, so long expected, carried our burdens, bore every sorrow:  
Here is Hope.  
Hope did not die here, but here was given,  
And ours is the victory.  
Here is Hope.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE FIFTH READING**

**Luke 23:44–56**  
*The Death and Burial of Christ*

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour,  
<sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out  
with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed  
his last. <sup>47</sup> Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this  
man was innocent!" <sup>48</sup> And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had  
taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> And all his acquaintances and the women who had  
followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the  
council, a good and righteous man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was  
looking for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he  
took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid it in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever  
yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup> The women who had  
come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they  
returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the  
commandment.

**Please depart in silence.**