

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 2020**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

SONG OF PRAISE #343 Called As Partners in Christ's Service

**Called as partners in Christ's service Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring To fulfil God's chosen end**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow never faltering Reconciling folk on earth
Men and women, richer, poorer All God's people young and old
Blending human skills together Gracious gifts from God unfold**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort, words of vision Words of challenge said with care
Bring new power and strength for action Make us colleagues free and fair**

**So God grant us for tomorrow Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow With a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living Our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith thus giving Hope and confidence and peace**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God you are merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Yet we test the limits of your grace, constantly turning away from you and toward that which is evil in your sight. We do not

understand our own actions, why we know what is right but do what is wrong despite your clear commandments. In a world awash in hate and fear, we are to be those who love others and trust you. Forgive us when instead we resemble the worst rhetoric of our culture rather than the compassion of our Lord. We place ourselves before you, asking again for your transformative grace, honest in our confession because we know you will not abandon us.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Our God is merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God hears our confession and responds with forgiveness and mercy. Friends, believe the good news and be at peace: through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FOR CHILDREN Luke 6:38 (Easy to Read Version)

Give to others and you will receive.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:14-30 NRSV

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents,^a to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did

not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

ANTHEM

SERMON

Nancy Coleman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jill Duffield

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer knowing that our voices are accompanied by the communion of the saints and the Holy Spirit. We pray that the church would be a reflection of its head, Jesus Christ. When the world roils in violence make of us peacemakers. When the oppressed cry out for help, send us to bring good news in the form of justice and relief. When your children are hungry, help us to feed your sheep. May our unity in Christ be leaven for reconciliation and healing in our communities. We pray for our nation. In the wake of a divisive election we recognize the tears in the fabric of our communal life. We do not have the power to overcome animosity and rancor on our own. We need your intervention and transformation. Grant those in positions of earthly power humility and wisdom, spiritual maturity and a willingness to listen. May each of us be catalysts for good wherever we have influence. We pray for the welfare of the world. As we live and move and have our being in you, reveal to us how to tend and nurture all you have entrusted to us. We pray for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. There are those known to us who we name now (moment of silence). There are those known only to you who we

remember in silence (moment of silence). Bring healing, wholeness, relief and peace to those most in need of your presence and love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Opportunities are Easytithe <https://app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/pfpc>
C&F Bank for PFPC and mail to P.O. Box 239

**5¢ a Meal can be offered both using Easy Tithe or a separate check sent to the church.*

SONG OF RESPONSE # 375 Lord of All Good

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You:
Use them your holy purpose to fulfil;
Tokens of love and pledges brought a-new
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

**We give our mind to understand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design;
Heart with the flame of Your own love ablaze,
Till for Your glory all our powers combine.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows,
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live,
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows,
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

BENEDICTION

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore. Amen.

People: Peace be with you!

Liturgy by Jill Duffield, Presbyterian Outlook