

PROVIDENCE FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HOLY COMMUNION
July 5, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP **Genesis 32:22-32**

Leader: In the morning when the sun rises

People: We shall praise you, O Lord.

Leader: You have delivered us through every long night

People: And given us safe passage across rivers of struggle.

Leader: the darkness is past; the Light has come.

All: In joy we raise our song and prayer to you, O Lord.

SONG of PRAISE #455 All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong Ye clouds that sail in Heaven
along, O sing ye! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O sing ye!! Alleluia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and cast on God your care! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless, And worship God in humbleness.
O sing ye! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

And praise the Spirit, Three in One! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: Because you made the world, intended it to be a good place, and called its people your children; because when things seemed at their worst you came in Christ to bring out the best in us; so gracious God, we gladly say:

All: Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness.

One: Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith; because anger, tension, bitterness, and envy distort our vision; because our minds sometimes worry small things out of proportion; because we do not always get

All: Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness.

One: Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us, and are willing to make our hearts your home, we ask you to confront, control, forgive and encourage us, as you know best. Then let us cherish in our hearts that which we proclaim with our lips:

All: Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness.

One: Lord, hear our prayers, and change our lives until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes all things new. Amen.

SCRIPTURE - Daniel 3:8-30; Acts 16:11-15, 40

⁸ At this time some astrologers^[a] came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[b] from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.” ²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language

who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Acts 16:11-15 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district^[a] of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us. ⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

ANTHEM

SERMON

Dr. Rev. Cindy Kissel-Ito

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.

FOR CHILDREN Matthew 20:20-24 (Easy to Read Version)

²⁰ Then Zebedee’s wife came to Jesus and brought her sons. She bowed before Jesus and asked him to do something for her.

²¹ Jesus said, "What do you want?" She said, "Promise that one of my sons will sit at your right side in your kingdom and the other at your left." ²² So Jesus said to the sons, "You don't understand what you are asking. Can you drink from the cup that I must drink from?" The sons answered, "Yes, we can!" ²³ Jesus said to them, "It is true that you will drink from the cup that I drink from. But it is not for me to say who will sit at my right or my left. My Father has decided who will do that. He has prepared those places for them." ²⁴ The other ten followers heard this and were angry with the two brothers.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One, we thank you that we stand in a long line of believers who have been faithful through the ages. You have led your people through trial and difficulty and have always set before them hope for today and hope for a better tomorrow. We pray that you would bless us in our time as we seek to be as faithful as those who have come before us. May we too know the faith which is filled with hope in things not seen.

- Give us faith like that of Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego- courage and determination in the face of fear and adversity.
- Give us faith that conveys your loving presence through hospitality, like Lydia.
- Give us the faith we have seen in others- as we reflect on those who have nurtured, supported and challenged us in faith- remind us of the wisdom that passes from their lives to ours.

We give thanks to you, O God, for all those servants and witnesses from times past and in the present. We ask that you give us strength and courage to live as faces of faith in the world that we may walk with you through the ebb and flow of life, confident that even when we can not see clearly, you are with us. Amen

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SONG OF PREPARATION #319 "Spirit"

Spirit, spirit of gentleness. Blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.
Wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, You called to the deep, Then You coaxed up

the mountains. From the valley of sleep, And over the eons You called to each thing, "A wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

Spirit, spirit of gentleness. Blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.
Wind, wind on the sea.

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SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer

SONG OF RESPONSE Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter's snare By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear To him whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless. And since he bids me seek his face, Believe his word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! May I thy consolation share, Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home and take my flight This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise

To seize the everlasting prize, And shout, while passing thru the air, "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

BENEDICTION Philippians 4:1-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

People: Peace be with you!