

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23, 2020**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Harbridge

Leader: From the comfort of our homes, we gather to worship.

People: Whether through printed word, or through the gift of technology, we are a community of faith.

Leader: Here we seek connection to the Divine.

People: Come, let us worship God together.

PRAYER OF PRAISE Romans 6

God of grace, You have brought us from slavery to freedom, from despair to hope, from death to life. We gather together in Your presence with gratitude and praise for all that You have done for us. May the presence of Your Holy Spirit inspire our worship. May our words and music, our thoughts and prayers, even our very lives, bring honor and glory to You. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection have brought us everlasting life. Amen.

SONG of PRAISE #341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God born of his Spirit and washed in his blood**

**This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy and whispers of love**

Refrain

**Perfect submission, all is at rest I in my Savior am happy and
blessed Watching and waiting, looking above Filled with His
goodness lost in his love**

Refrain

Text: Translation © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4:1, 6-14; Romans 6:15-18

Esther 4:1 ¹When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

Esther 4:6-14 ⁶So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. ⁷Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. ⁹Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹"All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king." ¹²When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Romans 6:15-18 ¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

ANTHEM

SERMON

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 John 4:24 (Easy to Read Version)

God is spirit. So the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Psalm 138 Christine Longhurst
Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people. When we call out to You, You answer. When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble, You are there, standing beside us.

And so we come before You with gratitude and praise, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives. Open our eyes to see and know You here among us; open our ears to recognize Your voice. And then send us to live and work as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING - Ayars Lore

Opportunities are: General Fund, Building Fund, 5¢ A Meal, Love Offering & In Memory of – though Easytithe -

<https://app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/pfpc>

Checks to C&F Bank for PFPC and mail to P.O. Box 239

SONG OF RESPONSE #333 Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you**

Allelu, alleluia

**Ask and it shall be given unto you Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you**

Allelu, alleluia

Text: © 1972; arrangement © 1986 Marantha! All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

BENEDICTION II Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Peace be with you!