

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 2020**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145

Leader: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

People: The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Leader: All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.

People: They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,

Leader: So that all people may know of your mighty acts, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God's greatness is unsearchable.

SONG OF PRAISE #356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

**Come Thou fount of every blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it Mount of God's unchanging love**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer Hither by Thy great help I'm come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure Safely to arrive at home**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger Interposed His precious blood**

**O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be
Let That grace now, like a fetter Bind my wandering heart to Thee**

**Prone to wander, Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Thom M. Shuman

It seems we cannot decide, O Lord. We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our own needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take him with us to work, to school, or to our homes. We believe the gospel has the power to transform lives, but

do not recognize that our own lives, too, need to be transformed, not just those of our enemies. Forgive us, Lord of Peace. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complainers, may we be carriers of compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet. Make us whole, we pray.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life. God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven; we have been made new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FOR CHILDREN Jonah 3:8b-9 (Easy to Read Version)

People must cry loudly to God. Everyone must change their life and stop doing bad things. Who knows? Maybe God will stop being angry and change his mind, and we will not be punished.

SCRIPTURE Jonah 3:10-4:11 NRSV

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush,^[a] and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in

which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

ANTHEM TBD

Melody & Tom

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 Life in Liturgy website

Gracious and loving God, we come to you with hearts that need to be opened to your word and your love. There is so much around us that tears at us and causes us to tremble. Keep us ever mindful of your presence and the hope that you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ.

Guide us, we pray, as your church, struggling to spread the good news. Keep us focused on the mission and ministry to which you have called us and lead us forward. We know, Lord, that there will often be bumps and holes in the road along the way. Save us from dwelling on them and make us secure in the goals you have placed before us.

Hear our prayers for all who need your tender touch of healing in their lives—those we name before you each day, and those who are known only to you in the depths of our hearts. Be with those who mourn, those who have lost loved ones due to the virus, the fires, and the hurricanes. May they know your comfort.

We pray for all your creation, always at odds with one another. Guide our leaders and those of other nations that this world might truly be as you created it to be—a world of peace, hope and love.

These are our prayers, together with those that lie on the hearts of all your faithful people, which we offer to you in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING - Ayars Lore

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

SONG OF RESPONSE #280 Amazing Grace

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.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come.

'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far

And Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.

His Word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

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'd first begun.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, opening your hearts to all whose lives touch yours. In the name of Christ. Amen.

People: Peace be with you!