

PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 17, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Amos 5)

Leader: We are called to seek good and not evil that we may live, and so that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with us.

People: We are called to hate evil, love good, and establish justice.

Leader: Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

All: We seek to be a people that embodies God's justice. By the power of God at work within us, may it be so.

SONG OF PRAISE #525 Here I am, Lord

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

[Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.]

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain. I have wept for love of them; they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them; My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my Life to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God, we confess our failures to discern the ways that demons of hostility have warped our common humanity. Yet we know that your Spirit heals the wounds in our lives and empowers us to extend that healing into the life of our communities. Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be people who live out our baptism and live more fully into its promise that in Jesus Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

FOR CHILDREN 1 Samuel 3:10 (Easy to Read Version)

Samuel said, "Speak. I am your servant, and I am listening."

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3:1-20

1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. **2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3** the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. **8** The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. **9** Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. **10** Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." **11** Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. **12** On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. **13** For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. **14** Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." **15** Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. **16** But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." **17** Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." **18** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." **19** As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. **20** And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

ANTHEM

SERMON

Rev. Nancy Coleman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One, you have called for justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. On this Sunday, as we remember the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., help us to embody his dream of a beloved community and of a day when justice is a reality for all Americans. Inspire us by his example and by the power of your Spirit at work within us to live in solidarity with all who have been marginalized in our world. Animate courage in us so that we might confront realities that deform and deface our country and participate in your reconciling and justice-seeking work in our midst. Hear our prayers also for peace in the days ahead as we navigate transitions in the nation's leadership. Grant all of our elected leaders wisdom and patience and courage to work together for the common good and to restore a spirit of partnership among us. God, our help in times of trouble, we continue to pray for the global community as it grapples with an ever-worsening pandemic. We pray that you would give each of us determination to take personal responsibility for measures that protect us all. We pray especially for the well-being of those hit hardest by the strains of this scourge, and pray for those in leadership in our communities, states and nation as they negotiate ways in which to aid those most afflicted. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Opportunities are Easytithes <https://app.easytithes.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 #388 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near: I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be. And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.

BENEDICTION

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us all. May the God of justice and peace sanctify you entirely, so that we might lift up the brokenhearted, and stand with the oppressed. Amen

People: Peace be with you!