

**PROVIDENCE FORGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 31, 2021

**CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 111)**

Leader: Praise the Lord! Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart, in the company of the congregation.

**People: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.**

Leader: Full of honor and majesty is God's work, whose righteousness endures forever.

**People: God has gained renown by wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

Leader: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

**All: God's praise endures forever. Hallelujah! Amen.**

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

**1 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!**

**2 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!**

**5 And everyone, with 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!**

**6 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!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Book of Common Worship**  
Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in

**mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.**

*Silence is kept.*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

The grace of God is sure for each and for all. Be restored to right standing with God and with one another. Know that we are set free and empowered by God's Spirit to create loving and just communities in our world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**FOR CHILDREN Philippians 2:4 (Easy to Read Version)**

Don't be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too

**SCRIPTURE**

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

**8** Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. **2** Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; **3** but anyone who loves God is known by him. **4** Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." **5** Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—**6** yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. **7** It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. **8** "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. **9** But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. **10** For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? **11** So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. **12** But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. **13** Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

## ANTHEM

## SERMON

**Rev. Nancy Coleman**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of grace, you come into our midst with power and authority to liberate us from anything that keeps us from the fullness of life you desire for all of your children and for the earth itself. Empower us to be agents of love and justice in our communities and world. Eternal God, we ask your blessing on our nation during these days of transition. Give our leaders courage and keep them safe. Help them to honor you by doing what is right, fair and just for all our citizens and to heal the wounds of a troubled nation. We pray for them, and for all of us, that we might serve the common good as engaged and faithful citizens, with ears attuned to those in our midst and around our world who are hurting most. Grant your church the grace to bear witness in its life to the reconciling power of the gospel and the justice it demands. God of compassion, we continue to pray for those whose lives have been most adversely affected by this raging pandemic. We pray for healthcare workers who work on overcrowded COVID-19 units throughout our country. We pray for all who are facilitating testing and vaccinations. And we pray that you would comfort and heal those who are sick or who have lost loved ones. Help us to be agents of your love and grace for those upon whom these challenges have weighed most heavily. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

### **THE 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** #339 **Be Thou My Vision**

**1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art--Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**2 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

## BENEDICTION

The Lord God has raised us up to be prophets to our people. Have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; support the weak; help the suffering. And may the Spirit of the living God empower us to work for peace and justice in all that we do. Amen.

**People: Peace be with you!**