

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 7, 2021**

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 147)

Leader: How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

People: God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

All: God's understanding is beyond measure.

SONG OF PRAISE #485 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done: so loved He the world that He gave us His son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

[Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.]

2 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son, but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and alienation amid a global pandemic, and we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when in fact you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might mount up with wings like eagles. Amen.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

FOR CHILDREN Galatians 6:9 (Contemporary English Version)

Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:21-31 (NRSV)

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? **22** It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; **23** who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. **24** Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. **25** To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength,

mighty in power, not one is missing. **27** Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? **28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. **29** He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. **30** Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; **31** but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

ANTHEM

SERMON

Rev. Nancy Coleman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, you have created all things and continue to sustain them. You come into our present moment, our times of vulnerability and trial, to renew our strength, and for this we are thankful! Yet we acknowledge, O God, that the realities of the sickness and disease weigh heavily upon us, upon our children, upon our nation and upon the entire globe. Our crisis feels like an exile, because we are living with profound isolation and deep vulnerability. Teach us, O God, that stand-alone self-sufficiency is an illusion and is not your will for us. Help us to discern our deep inter-dependency with one another and with you. Help us to trust in the comforting words of the prophet Isaiah that remind us that you give power to the faint and strengthen the powerless, and that those who wait on you “shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” These words affirm that you, O God, can make a way when there appears to be no way. And so we continue to pray for weary healthcare workers in the trenches of this pandemic and for all who are now facilitating vaccinations. We pray for your comfort for all who are sick and for all who have lost loved ones. Empower us to be agents of love and justice for those who are suffering in our midst. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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 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, "Awake 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. Text and Music: © 1978 James K. Manley. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer

SONG OF RESPONSE #467 How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

[Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art!]

2 When through the trees and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

[Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

BENEDICTION

God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. We who wait for the Lord shall renew our strength, we shall mount up with wings like eagles, we shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint. Amen.

People: Peace be with you!

Liturgy by Roger Gench, Presbyterian Outlook