



## **Providence Forge Presbyterian Church**

to further God's kingdom on earth, one soul at a time

9310 Townsend Road | Providence Forge, VA 23140 | (804) 966-2039 | [www.PFPC.org](http://www.PFPC.org)



# **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

## **Summer Series: Final Instructions**

**Thank you to our youth for leading worship today!**

*If you are new to PFPC or new to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), welcome!*

*We have worship guides located in the front and rear of the sanctuary.*

*Please feel free to grab one and use it to understand the different parts of worship or to follow along with liturgy not printed in the bulletin.*

*We say the words printed in **bold** together. | \* Indicate we stand as we are able.*

## **Gathering to Worship**

**PRELUDE**

Melody Raef

**WELCOME**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from Call to Worship*

Leader: In a world where lies surround us,

**People: your word is like fire, God nearby!**

Leader: In a world full of false prophets and empty promises,

**People: your word is like fire, God nearby!**

Leader: In a world where words don't have meaning,

**People: your word is like fire, God nearby!**

Leader: We are here, ready for our faith to be kindled by your word.

**People: We are here to worship the God who is nearby!**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

#267 All Things Bright and Beautiful

## **Confessing to God's Mercy**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Presbyterian Outlook*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Ever-loving God,**

**we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love.**

**You call us to step forward in radical faith,**

**but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable and non-controversial.**

**You are eternally at work in the world,**

**but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**By your grace,**

**give us courage to stand for what is right and good**

**and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular.**

**Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead.**

**In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, look around! We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are the body of Christ, the family of faith, all of us both saints and sinners. The grace we receive in baptism washes away our shame and brokenness and unites us with one another in bonds of love and kinship.

Proclaim the good news with me:

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE**

#579 Gloria Patri

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **Proclaiming God's Word**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Blessing of the Backpacks

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 11:29–12:2

Pew Bible p. 978, Deep Blue Kids' Bible p. 1355

Leader: The Word of God for all people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SERMON**

"The Great Cloud of Witnesses" Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

## **Responding to God's Love**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from A Declaration of Faith*

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule.**

**Christ teaches us to put obedience to God**

**above the interests of self, family, race or nation;**

**to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time.**

**It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest,**

**setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work,**

**celebrating with our family in Christ the Lord's goodness.**

**We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture,**

**not expecting detailed directions for every decision,**

**but relying on the Word to tell us who God is,**

**to press God's present claim on us,**

**and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE**

#460 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, they will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

#592 Doxology

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Departing to Serve*

**\*SONG OF SENDING**

#339 Be Thou My Vision

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Melody Raef

**PROVIDENCE FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 – 2:00

[www.pfpc.org](http://www.pfpc.org) | (804) 966-2079 | [office@pfpc.org](mailto:office@pfpc.org)

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. Crystal Varner Parker
Administrative Assistant	Kristel Lamp
Organist & Choir Director	Melody Raef
Sunshine Nursery School Director	Cathy Davis
Church Treasurer	Paul Robinson

**THE SESSION 2025**

Clerk of Session:	Ruth Hopke
Admin Pillar:	Pete Adamson, Lisa Ballou, Robert Billcheck, & Nathan Richards
Christian Life Pillar:	Paul Davis, Davis Gammon, and Patricia Robinson
Mission & Outreach Pillar:	Hayden VanDyke and Jo White