



Providence Church

A Reformed Evangelical Congregation

THE LORD'S SERVICE

October 6th 2019

17th Sunday After Pentecost

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we at Providence Church open wide our doors and welcome all who are spiritually weak and seek rest; all who mourn and long for comfort; all who struggle and desire victory; all who sin and need the Savior; all who are strangers and want fellowship; all who hunger and thirst for righteousness; all who are poor in spirit and desire the riches of the gospel; all who will come to Jesus Christ in living faith and repentance, looking to Him as both Liberator and Lord.

Providence
Church

Days, Seasons, and Colors

Why Celebrate the Liturgical Year?

At Providence Church we mark time by following the liturgical year. Often Scripture readings, hymns/psalms, sermons, and application will follow the days and seasons of the church calendar.

Some might associate the celebration of the days and seasons of the liturgical year with dead liturgy. But a healthy understanding of what the Bible says about our days, weeks, seasons, and years will transform our view of these holy seasons. It will cause us to reflect with greater joy in this cycle of expectation and elation. Thursday (Thor's day—as in the Norse god Thor) is not a fitting name for the fifth day of Creation. Christmas, on the other hand, makes biblical sense to mark off on our calendar each year.

We necessarily operate in a tradition. The question is whether it has a biblical basis and submits entirely to Scripture. As for our frequently pagan (and boring) names for the passage of time, we can look forward to a future when people scoff at the wimpiness of Thor's day in comparison to the day in which the Almighty created all that flies and swims. We can at least be thankful that our weeks are still seven days long, but we cannot deny that our weeks are seven days for *a reason*.

Furthermore, the Scriptures are not silent in the matter of reverently naming and commemorating the passage of time. In the Old Testament, God ordained Sabbaths and seasons of the year for festivals. In Colossians 2:15-19 we learn that through the cross Christ has triumphed over worldly principalities (Thor included) and bare rituals. And by this triumph, Jesus Christ has forever linked the shadows of the Old Covenant (e.g., food regulations, the feast days, the many sabbaths) to the substance of Himself.

The Church calendar makes sense of the Old Covenant shadows with Christ as the substance. Hence, the liturgical year follows the life of Christ through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, giving the benefit of further shaping our lives after Him. Becoming like Jesus Christ is the sum of the Christian life, and living under His lordship over time, following Him on a yearly journey through the events of His life, is one more way to be made like Him. Over time, when mixed with faith, it has the effect of helping to bind the church together in Christ-likeness.

We should not be hasty to name the passage of time definitively unless we find deep Scriptural reasons to do so. With the same care, though, we can echo the words of Abraham Kuyper: “There is not a square inch in the whole of domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry ‘Mine!’”

What Do the Liturgical Colors Mean?

Liturgical colors have an instructive purpose and point us to the life of Christ and the great acts of redemptive history. These colored hangings, called paraments, are seen on the pulpit, communion table, and lectern. The ministers will also wear stoles with colors representing the season.

- *White* represents purity. It is displayed for festivals of the Lord Jesus, primarily used in celebrating Christmas and Easter.
- *Purple* represents royalty, repentance, and suffering. It is displayed during Advent and Lent, times of preparation and penitence.
- *Red* represents the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. It also signifies the blood of the martyrs and the fire that rested on the Church on Pentecost. Thus, red is worn corporately on Pentecost Sunday.
- *Green* represents spiritual growth and world missions. It is displayed during “ordinary time,” which is the period from Pentecost to the beginning of Advent and the period from Epiphany to the beginning of Lent.

GOD IS RENEWING HIS COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE

GOD CALLS US AND CLEANSSES US

Exhortation:

Prelude:

Mrs. Danielle Poorman

Call to Worship (Please Stand)

Pastor: Let us worship God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 18:20; 28:19

People: Amen

Salutation: The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

People: And also with you!

Pastor: I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

Psalm 122:1-2

People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord!

People: Maker of Heaven and Earth!

Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of heavenly grace.

Pastor: Come, let us worship and bow down!

People: And kneel before the Lord our Maker. *(Let all who are able kneel)*

Psalm 95:6

Pastor: Most merciful God,

All: In whom we live and move and have our being, our heavenly Father, your face is hidden from us because of our sins. Cleanse us, we pray, from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. Grant that we may, in lowliness and meekness, draw near to you. Confessing our faults and confiding in your grace, we look for your grace and mercy through Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(Continue Kneeling for Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

(Rise and Hear the Good News of God's Forgiveness)

Pastor: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. On this day know surely your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 13:38

**All: Thanks be to God. Our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name.
Amen!**

Hymn of Faith:

Psalm 23, The Lord's My Shepherd I Shall Not Want pg. 38

People: Amen.

GOD CONSECRATES AND RAISES US UP TO HEAVEN

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

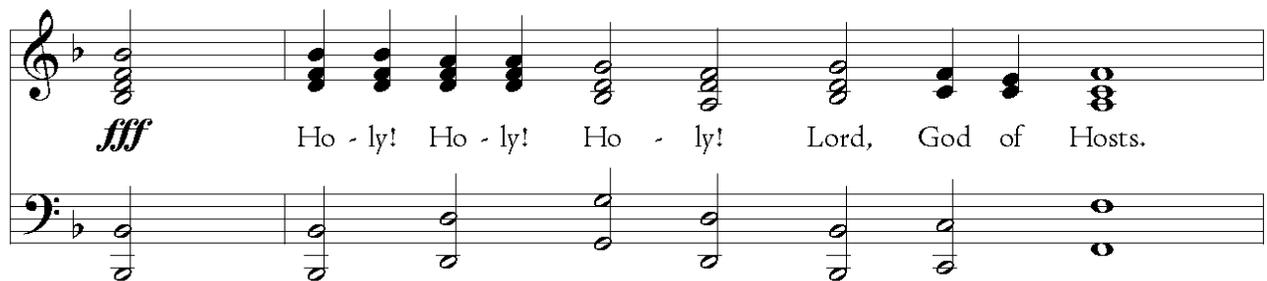
People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

People: It is proper and right to do so.

SANCTUS

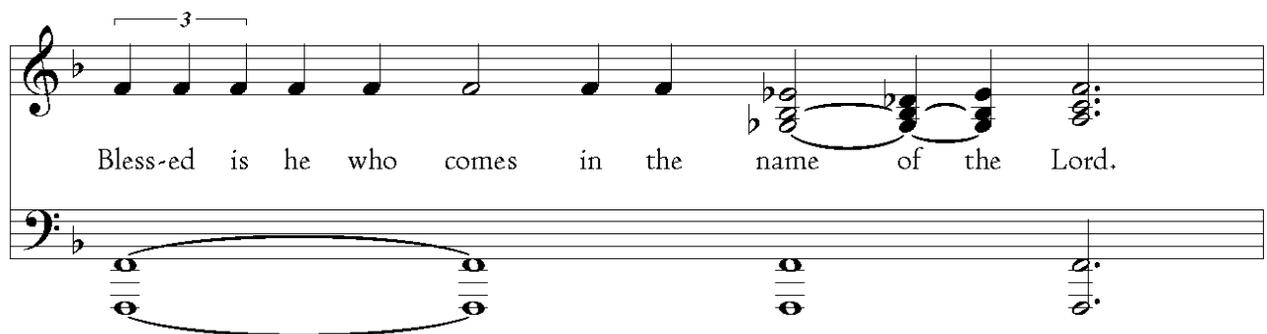
Pastor: Truly it is fitting, right, wholesome and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, with all the company of heaven, and with all the Church on earth, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



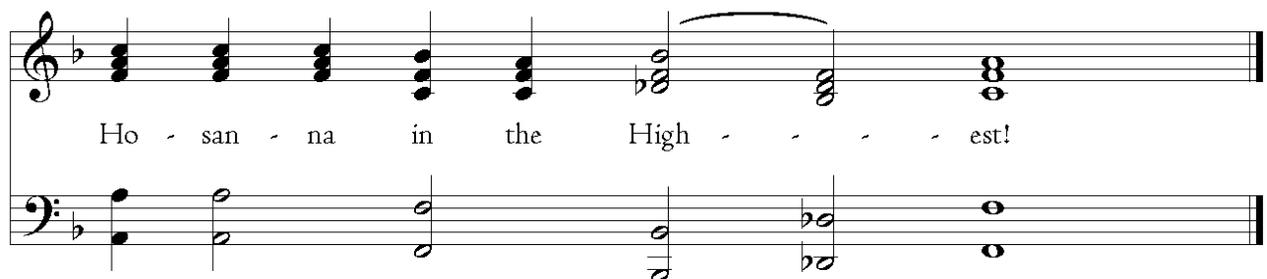
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts.



Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo-ry! Ho-san-na in the High - est!



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the High - - - est!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 23

Pastor: Yahweh is my Shepherd,

People: Nothing shall I lack.

In green pastures He makes me lie down;

Beside quiet waters He leads me.

My soul He restores;

He leads me in righteous paths for His name's sake.

Even though I walk in a valley of deep darkness, I will fear no evil;

For You are with me,

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare before me a table in the presence of mine enemies.

You fatten my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in Yahweh's house to the end of days.

All: Amen! Yes, Amen!

CONFESSION OF THE NICENE CREED

(Please Remain Standing)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Providence
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PASTORAL PRAYER AND SUNG LORD'S PRAYER

Please respond at the end of each section:

Pastor: Father, hear our prayer!

People: For Your steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name, Thy king - dom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread,

and for - give us our debts, as we for - give our debt - ors,

and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry for - ev - er. A - men!

READING OF GOD'S WORD

(Please Stand)

Old Covenant Reading:

Exodus 33:12-23

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Covenant Reading:

Revelation 7:9-17

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading in the Midst of the People:

John 10

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Faith:

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds, pg. 307

People: Amen.

SERMON

Pastor: Alan Stout

Title: Shepherds, Sheep and Scoundrels (Outline on back page)

Text: John 10:1- 21

OFFERTORY

(Ex. 23:15; 34:20; Dt. 16:16)

Pastor: Let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

Psalm of Faith:

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee, pg. 359

People: Amen.

Offertory Prayer:

Pastor: Christians, how do you respond to our Lord?

People: We give only what the Lord has first given to us.

We present ourselves as living sacrifices,

And we offer the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.

We cheerfully give these tithes and offerings

In obedience to the Lord, for the glory of His Name,

The health of the Church, and for the sake of the world. Amen.

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GOD COMMUNES WITH US

The Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the Session of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the pastors before or after the service.

Passing of the Bread: **("The Lord be with you" "The Lord bless you")**

Passing of the Wine: **("The Peace of Christ be with you" "And also with you")**

Congregational Response: **Gloria Patri**

(Please Stand with Hands Raised)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end,

A-men, A-men.

GOD COMMISSIONS US

The Lord's Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20

Pastor: Our mouths will speak the praise of the Lord!

People: Let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever. AMEN!

Psalms 145:21

Closing Hymn:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty! pgs. 322-323

People: Amen!

Benediction:

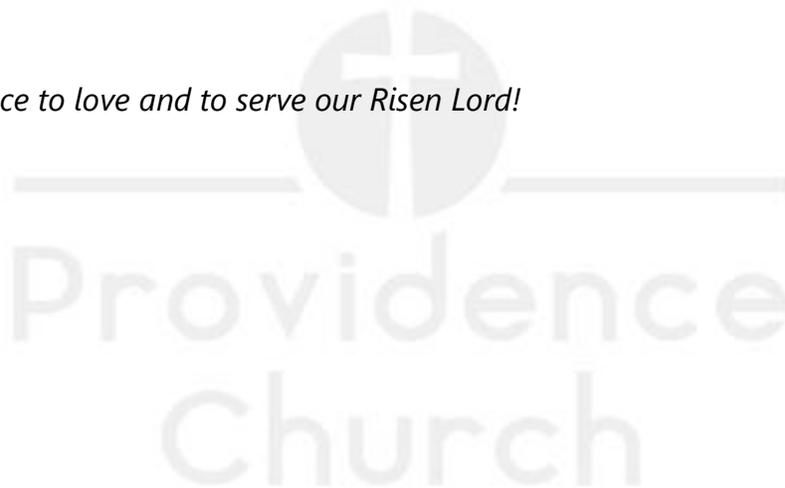
Numbers 6:24-26

Threefold Amen

Announcements

Pastor: Go in peace to love and to serve our Risen Lord!

All: Amen!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

Oct. 8th

Oct. 19th

Oct. 27th

Oct. 31st

No Men's Study this week

**Informal Men's Study and
fellowship**

Fellowship Meal

40 Days for Life Prayer

8:30am 4571 White Rd, Pace. See
Al Stout Sr. If Interested

6am – 6pm Outside the Currently
Closed Clinic See Pastor Stout for
details



OUTLINE

Text: John 10:1-21

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. . . . Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. (CS Lewis Mere Christianity, 55-56)

- I. Introduction The Metaphors in Abundance... We have a Sheepfold, a door, sheep, shepherds, hired hands thieves and robbers.
- II. Jesus sets the stage. Israel, the nation of Israel is the sheepfold, the place of safety for God's people. There are people attempting to watch over these who are outside the sheepfold
- III. The pharisees are blind
 - a. I am the door.
 - b. Jesus says he came that they might have life and have it abundantly.
- IV. The knowing of sheep and shepherd.
 - a. This is a covenantal knowing.
 - b. Jesus has other sheep, sheep that are not in this fold.
- V. The Father loves me because I lay my life down for the sheep, that I may take it up again.

PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Providence Church is a member of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC), and a member of Athanasius Presbytery.

THE SESSION

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