



*“growing a family
to reach a community”*

Loving God, loving one another, and embracing
our community and world with Jesus

Lord's Day Worship

July 12, 2020

Call to Worship

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

All Creatures of Our God and King

Hymn #115

Opening Prayer

Confessing Our Sins Together

2 Corinthians 5:11, 14-15, 20-21

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others ... For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised ... we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Father in heaven, we thank you for the life you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. Thank you that despite our sin, You rescued us, and adopted us into Your family through Jesus. But we confess that we often do not love You as we ought, or speak to others of Jesus. We so easily make things all about ourselves, rather than about You, and Your Son, and His glorious kingdom.

Forgive us for our silence. Forgive us for our fearfulness. Forgive us for our double-mindedness. Cleanse us. Heal us. Forgive us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lord Have Mercy

Song

It Is Well

Hymn #691

Praying for the Work of Missions

Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

Hymn #468

Hearing God's Word Together

The Gospel According to Acts

Acts 3. 11-26; 4. 1-4

From a Sign to a Sermon

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Song

Benediction

Romans 1:5-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Acts 3. 11-26; 4. 1-4 (English Standard Version)

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²² Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

The Gospel According to Acts
Acts 3. 11-26; 4. 1-4
From a Sign to a Sermon

I. A Needful Redirection (3. 11-16)

- Peter was clear: salvation was not in the _____, the _____ or the _____.

You delivered & denied His servant Jesus
when Pilate had decided to release Him

You denied The Holy & Righteous One
and asked for a murderer to be granted to you

You killed The Author of Life
whom God raised from the dead

II. An Urgent Plea (3. 17-26)

If anyone kills his neighbor unintentionally without having hated him in the past ... he may flee to one of these cities and live...

Deuteronomy 19. 4-5

... if the manslayer shall at any time go beyond the boundaries of his city of refuge to which he fled, and the avenger of blood finds him outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood. For he must remain in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest, but after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

Numbers 35. 28

III. A Mixed Response (4. 1-4)

- Some were _____
- But many _____

Sermon Quotes and References:

Christianity **did not** grow because of miracle working in the marketplaces (although there may have been much of that going on), or because Constantine said it should, or because the martyrs gave it such credibility, or because of the relentless labors of well-known evangelists (like Paul).

Christianity grew because everyday Christians constituted an intense community, radiating an obstinate devotion as well as a credible message. The primary means of its growth was through the united and motivated efforts of the growing numbers of Christian believers, common men & women who invited their friends, relatives, and neighbors to hear the "good news", and used every opportunity - whether at home, work or in exile - to talk about Jesus.

Rodney Stark, [The Rise of Christianity](#)

This Week:

Today3D Youth Family Kickoff event, 6:00 p.m. at the Pavilion
Tuesday.....Women’s *Ephesians* Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
WednesdayNowicki’s HFG, 6:00 p.m. at church
Thursday*Revelation* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
FridayLacock’s HFG, 6:30 p.m. at the Pavilion
Saturday.....Women’s *Ephesians* Bible Study, 8:00 a.m. at the Pavilion
.....Christ’s Cupboard Distribution/Outreach, 8:30 at church

Announcements:

COVID reminder: Many of you are aware of the directive that was issued from Governor Wolf’s office. Here is the portion that is relevant to our life together as a church ...

Face coverings are now required for individuals in the following situations:

- *If people are “outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of 6 feet from individuals who are not members of their households.”*
- *Indoors in public locations where other people are present.*

Thus in submission to our governing authority (Romans 13.1) and out of love for our neighbor (Matthew 20.39), **we are asking all to please wear a face mask at all events at Providence until further notice.** This includes Lord’s Day worship (both the 830 & 1030 services), Bible studies, 3-D events, etc. **Please note** that this request (and the governor’s order) excludes those whose responsibilities would be adversely affected by wearing a mask (e.g. me while preaching & leading worship, the worship team while up-front, etc) or those with special conditions (as outlined in the order).

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, August 9, 6:00 p.m. at church. The session of Providence Presbyterian Church is calling a special congregational meeting for presentation and consideration of Mr. Mark Opdycke for the office of deacon. There will be two items on the meeting agenda a couple of By-law changes will be presented and a secret ballot will be taken for the election of Mr. Mark Opdycke. Please prayerfully consider this important decision for both Mark and our church family. Any questions please see one of the elders.