



*“growing a family
to reach a community”*

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

Lord's Day Worship

September 13, 2020

Call to Worship

Psalm 66:1-4

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.

All Glory Be to Christ

Song

Opening Prayer

Confessing Our Sins Together

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.

Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has worked in us your holy will. Amen.

Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

His Mercy is More

Song

In Christ Alone

Song

Intercessory Prayer for World Leaders & Providence Church

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Proverbs 11:24-25

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Ancient Words

Song

Hearing God's Word Together

The Gospel According to Acts

Acts 8. 1-8

The Fruit of Stephen's Death

Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone

Song

Benediction

Ephesians 5:1-2

*Be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Scripture Reading

Acts 7. 58 – 8.8 (English Standard Version)

⁵⁸ Then they cast Stephen out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

^{8.1} And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

The Gospel According to Acts
Acts 8. 1-8
The Fruit of Stephen's Death

I. The Worst of Times (vs. 1-3)

- A. Great persecution
- B. Great lamentation
- C. Violent ravaging

- “... entering house after house...”
- “... dragged off ...”
- “... men and women ...”
- “... to prison.”

“I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women...” Acts 22.4

“... I not only locked up many of the saints in prison ... but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them ... I tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them ...” Acts 26. 10-11

II. The Best of Times (vs. 4-8)

- A. Faithful _____
- B. Eager _____
- C. Unmistakable _____
- D. Much _____

Sermon Quotes and References

The very fact that we are so imperfectly aware of how evangelism was carried out in the early church, and by whom, should make us sensitive to the possibility that the little man, the unknown ordinary woman, the anonymous saint who left no literary remains was the prime agent in mission. The great mission of Christianity was in reality accomplished by means of informal missionaries.

As early as Acts 8 we find that it is not the apostles but the ‘amateur’ missionaries, those evicted from Jerusalem as a result of the persecution which followed Stephen’s martyrdom, who took the gospel with them wherever they went. It was they who traveled along the coastal plain to Phoenicia, over the sea to Cyprus, or struck up north to Antioch. They were evangelists, just as much as any apostle was ... They were scattered from their base in Jerusalem and they went everywhere spreading the good news which had brought joy, release and a new life to themselves.

What does this mean for us? Unless there is a transformation of contemporary church life so that once again the task of evangelism is something which is seen as incumbent on every baptized Christian, and is backed up by a quality of living which outshines the best that unbelief can muster, we are unlikely to make much headway through techniques or programs of evangelism. Others will not believe that Christians have good news to share until they find that bishops and bakers, university professors and warehouse workers, bus drivers and street corner preachers are all keen to pass along the gospel, however different their methods may be.

Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*

This Week:

TodayDiscovering Providence Class (Part 2), 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
.....Providence Deep Dive - *Exploring the Dating Game*, 6:00 p.m. at Church (see insert)
Tuesday.....Ladies 2 *Kings* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. at church
WednesdayMen’s Fellowship Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Thursday*Revelation* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Saturday.....Christ’s Cupboard Distribution/Outreach, 8:30 a.m. at church
.....Ladies *James* Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. at the Pavilion*

Future:

Sept 15.....Ultimate Frisbee games begin, 6:30 p.m. at the Pavilion

Announcements:

Ultimate Frisbee: *The Provi Cup Tournament* Enjoy fellowship, exercise, & outreach! ~5 weeks ~ 5 games ~ 6 teams ~ 1 *Provi cup!* Players of all ages & levels are welcome. Invite your neighbors, friends and family to join in. Each team will play 5 games total. Game nights are Tuesday or Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the pavilion. Season starts on Tuesday, September 15th and ends on Saturday, October 17th with a cookout and the presentation of the Provi Cup Tournament Trophy! A sign up is in the church foyer. Any questions please see Rebekah Fodale.

*The **Ladies James Bible Study** is open to all women, starting this Saturday meeting from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the pavilion. Any questions please see Kathryn Zimmerman.or Genna Dimmick.