



*“growing a family
to reach a community”*

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

Lord's Day Worship

January 24, 2021

Call to Worship

Psalm 7:17

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.

How Firm a Foundation

Hymn #94

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn #100

Opening Prayer

Confessing Our Sins Together

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Eternal Father, we humble ourselves before your great Majesty and confess that we have frequently and grievously sinned. We continually disobey your commandments, failing to do what you have instructed, and doing what you have forbidden. We are not worthy to be called your children, nor to lift up our eyes to you in prayer.

Nevertheless, we know that you do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn to you and live. So we take courage to call upon you from the depths of our hearts, trusting in our great

Mediator, Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In his Name we pray. Amen.

Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness

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.

My Living Hope

Song

Amazing Grace

Hymn #460

Praying for our Community, our State, and our Nation

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Song

Hearing God's Word Together

The Gospel According to Acts

Acts 15. 12-35

A Wise Compromise & a Gracious Appeal

Cornerstone

Song

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all ...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Scripture Reading

Acts 15. 12-35 (English Standard Version)

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶ “‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old.’

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, ²³ with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴ Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, ²⁵ it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from

blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

³⁰ So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

³² And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. ³³ And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. ³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.



Sermon Quotes and References:

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3. 13-18

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery ... For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5. 1, 13-14

The Gospel According to Acts
Acts 15. 12-35
A Wise Compromise & a Gracious Appeal

I. The Appeal of James (vs. 13-21)

- A. An affirmation of experience (v. 14)
- B. The witness of Scripture (vs. 15-18)
- C. A clear “judgment” (v. 19)
- D. A proposed compromise (vs. 20-21)

II. The Response in Jerusalem (vs. 22-29)

III. The Reaction in Antioch (vs. 30-35)

IV. Some Applications for Today

- A. We should _____ looking like the world around us.
- B. We must _____ to compromise on negotiable things.
- C. We should _____ to lay down our “rights” so that we can love our neighbor for the sake of the gospel.

<u>Task Schedule</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeting Upper-Level	Bob and Carol Lacock.....	H. Jackson/M. Smith
Sound Booth	Ethan/Isaac/Darrin.....	Ethan/Maggi/Nick
Simulcast Downstairs.....	Eric	Eric
Congregational prayer led by	Paul Wesner	Paul Wesner

This Week:

- TodayDiscovering Providence Class (Part 1), 1:00 p.m. on Zoom
- Tuesday.....Ladies 2 Kings, Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. at church
-Ladies Romans Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. at church
- WednesdayNowicki’s HFG, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- ThursdayRevelation Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Saturday.....Men’s Prayer Meeting, 8:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
-Women’s Leadership Training Workshops, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Future:

- Jan 31.....Women’s Leadership Training Class, 9:00 a.m. at church
- Feb. 7Discovering Providence Class (Part 2), 1:00 p.m., on Zoom
- Feb. 13Women’s Prayer Gathering, 8:00 a.m. at Genna Dimmick’s home, QT

Announcements:

Discovering Providence 2-Part online Classes , Starting today, January 24 and part 2 on February 7 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. If you are new to Providence or want to find out more about the church, please consider attending this 2-part series. This is the first step if you are interested in membership, and you must attend both classes. (Note: you are under no obligation by taking the classes to become a member.) Please see Mike Boesch or Diane Henderson if you have any questions. It’s not too late to sign up, we will email you the class materials and Zoom link.

Calling all men of Providence!

You are invited to a ...



When?

*Saturday January 30,
8 - 9am*

Where?

Providence sanctuary

What?

*A time to pray for our church, our witness, our
nation, ourselves, and our families.*

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5. 16-18