



# Providence

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



***God's Sovereign Power***

October 18, 2020

## THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

### *God's Sovereign Power*

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME AND PPC FAMILY NEWS

#### TIME OF REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

Voices of Providence

*Psalm 148 passim*

ST. KATHERINES

*From heav'n O praise the LORD; Ye heights, His glory raise.  
All angels, praise accord; let all His host give praise.  
By young and old, by maid and youth, O Israel's race,  
Near to His grace. Praise Ye the LORD.*

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves.

**All:** *The LORD on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea. Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.*

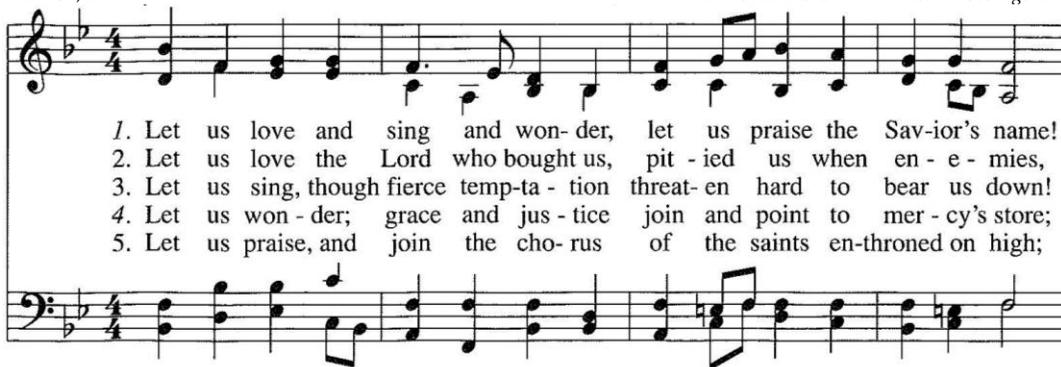
*Psalm 93*

# Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

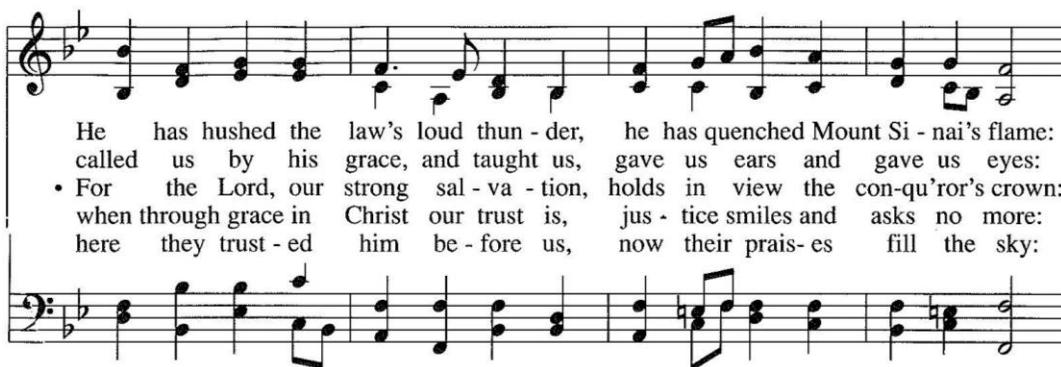
John Newton, 1774

# Trinity 172

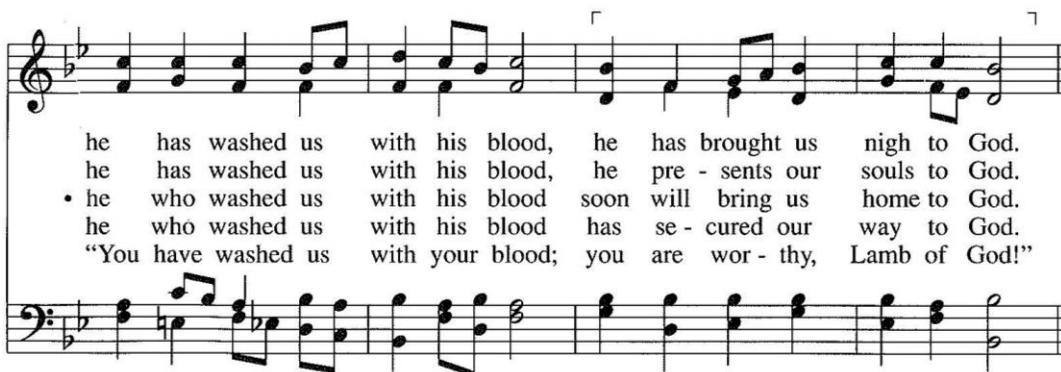
ALL SAINTS OLD: Darnstadt Gesangbuch, 1698



1. Let us love and sing and won-der, let us praise the Sav-ior's name!  
2. Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied us when en - e - mies,  
3. Let us sing, though fierce temp-ta - tion threat - en hard to bear us down!  
4. Let us won - der; grace and jus - tice join and point to mer - cy's store;  
5. Let us praise, and join the cho - rus of the saints en - throned on high;



He has hushed the law's loud thun - der, he has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame:  
called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
• For the Lord, our strong sal - va - tion, holds in view the con - qu'ror's crown:  
when through grace in Christ our trust is, jus - tice smiles and asks no more:  
here they trust - ed him be - fore us, now their prais - es fill the sky:



he has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.  
he has washed us with his blood, he pre - sents our souls to God.  
• he who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.  
he who washed us with his blood has se - cured our way to God.  
"You have washed us with your blood; you are wor - thy, Lamb of God!"

## INVOCATION

# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Michael Alexander Smith*

## **VOWS FOR COVENANT BAPTISM**

- 1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?
- 4 Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

## SCRIPTURE READING

Then Job answered and said: "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God? If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered? He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger; He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble; He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea; He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south; He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number.

If He goes by me, I do not see Him; If He moves past, I do not perceive Him; If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?' God will not withdraw His anger, The allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. How then can I answer Him, And choose my words to reason with Him? For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge. If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to my voice. For He crushes me with a tempest, And multiplies my wounds without cause. He will not allow me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness. If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court? Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; Though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse. I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life.

It is all one thing; Therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.' If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent. The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be? Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good. They pass by like swift ships, Like an eagle swooping on its prey. If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,' I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You will not hold me innocent. If I am condemned, Why then do I labor in

vain? If I wash myself with snow water, And cleanse my hands with soap, Yet You will plunge me into the pit, And my own clothes will abhor me. For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both. Let Him take His rod away from me, And do not let dread of Him terrify me. Then I would speak and not fear Him, But it is not so with me."

Job 9

## Majesty

Jack Hayford

Ma-jes-ty, \_\_\_ wor-ship His ma-jes-ty. \_\_\_ Un-to Je-sus be all glo-ry, ho-nor and  
 praise. \_\_\_ Ma-jes-ty, \_\_\_ king-dom au-thor-i-ty \_\_\_ flow from His  
 Ma-jes-ty, \_\_\_ wor-ship His ma-jes-ty; \_\_\_ Je-sus who  
 throne un-to His own; His an-them raise. \_\_\_ So ex-alt, lift up on  
 died, now glor-i-fied, King of all kings. \_\_\_

high the name of Je - sus. \_\_\_ Mag-ni - fy, come glo-ri - fy Christ Je-sus, the King.

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## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Offertory

### Sing Praises!

Larry Shackley

Voices of Providence

*Sing praises to God, sing praises!*

*For He is the King of all the earth, come bring Him a psalm of praise!  
 Rulers of nations and all of God's people, come lift up His name with a song!*

*O clap your hands, all you people.*

*Shout unto God with a song of triumph, how awesome is the Lord Most High.  
 All of the nations are gathered together, for all of the earth belongs to the Lord.*

Words from Psalm 47. © 2013 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation

# A Shelter in the Time of Storm

V. J. Charlesworth, alt. Ira D. Sankey, 1885

# Trinity 619

SHELTER: Ira D. Sankey, 1885

1. The Lord's our rock, in him we hide, a shel - ter in the time of storm,  
2. A shade by day, de - fense by night, a shel - ter in the time of storm;  
3. The rag - ing storms may round us beat, a shel - ter in the time of storm;  
4. O Rock di - vine, O Ref- uge dear, a shel - ter in the time of storm;

se - cure what - ev - er ill be - tide, a shel - ter in the time of storm.  
no fears a - larm, no foes af - fright, a shel - ter in the time of storm.  
we'll nev - er leave our safe re - treat, a shel - ter in the time of storm.  
be thou our help - er ev - er near, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

**REFRAIN**  
Oh, Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land;

oh, Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## SERMON

Matthew 14:22-36<sup>NKJV</sup>

### *Lord of the Storm*

Dr. Ray E. Heiple, Jr.

- 22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.
- 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.
- 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.
- 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.
- 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.
- 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."
- 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."
- 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.
- 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"
- 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
- 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
- 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."
- 34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.
- 35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick,
- 36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

### Notes

# Now unto Jehovah, Ye Sons of the Mighty

# Trinity 45

Psalm 29:1-5, 9-11. 1-The Psalter, 1912. 2-2-4 The Book of Psalms. 1871

WILLOW GROVE: Ronald Alan Matthews, 1985

1. Now un - to Je - ho - vah, ye sons of the might - y, all  
2. The voice of Je - ho - vah comes down on the wa - ters; in  
3. The voice of Je - ho - vah is might - y; is might - y; in  
4. Each one in His tem - ple His glo - ry, is pro - claim - eth. the He

5  
glo - ry and strength and do - min - ion ac - cord; as - cribe to him  
thun - der of the God of the glo - ry draws nigh; Lo, o - ver the  
voice of Je - ho - vah; he is King on - ty His throne. the voice of Je -  
sat on the flood; he is King on His throne. the Je - ho - vah all

10  
glo - ry, and ren - der him hon - or. In beau - ty of ho - li - ness  
waves of the wide - flow - ing wa - ters Je - ho - vah as King is en -  
ho - vah the ce - dars is break - ing; Je - ho - vah the ce - dars of  
strength to his peo - ple im - part - eth; Je - ho - vah with pece ev - er

15  
wor - ship the Lord, in beau - ty of ho - li - ness wor - ship the Lord!  
thron - ed on high! Je - ho - vah as King is en - thron - ed on high!  
Leb - a - non breaks, Je - ho - vaj the ce - dars of Leb - a - non breaks.  
bless - eth his own, Je - ho - vah with peace ev - er bless - eth his own.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

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*Following the service, the elders will be available to pray with you at the front of the sanctuary.*

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THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Call to Worship .....Psalm 96:12-13

Hymn .....165 *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Invocation

Confession of Faith .....*Shorter Catechism 27, 28*

*Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

*Q. 28. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Old Testament Reading .....Daniel 2:19-23

New Testament Reading.....1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Pastoral Prayer

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon            Ephesians 1:7-10            *The Mystery of His Will*            Rev. Rick Appleton

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,<sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, <sup>10</sup> that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth-- in Him.

Prayer

Hymn .....369 *Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns*

Benediction

# Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

# Trinity 165

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

LYONS: Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806; Arr. in William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,  
2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;  
3. Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!  
4. Then let us a - dore, and give him his right,

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name;  
and still he is nigh - his pres - ence we have.  
Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.  
all glo - ry and pow'r, and wis - dom and might,

the name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol;  
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,  
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,  
all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.  
as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.  
fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.  
and thanks nev - er ceas - ing for in - fi - nite love.

# Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns

Benjamin Beddome, 1769

# Trinity 369

TRURO; Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

1. Shout, for the bless - ed Je - sus reigns; through dis - tant  
2. He calls his cho - sen from a - far, they all at  
3. Gen - tiles and Jews his laws o - bey; na - tions re -  
4. O may his ho - ly church in - crease, his Word and  
5. Loud hal - le - lu - jahs to the Lamb, from all be -

lands his tri - umphs spread; and sin - ners, freed from  
Zi - on's gates ar - rive; those who were dead in  
• mote their of - f'nings bring, and un - con - strained their  
Spir - it still pre - vail, while an - gels cel - e -  
low, and all a - bove! In loft - y songs ex -

end - less pains, own him their Sav - ior and their Head.  
sin be - fore by sov - ereign grace are made a - live.  
• hom - age pay to their ex - alt - ed God and King.  
brate his praise, and saints his grow - ing glo - ries hail.  
alt his name, in songs as last - ing as his love.

**Deacon of the Month:** Trey Jackson

**Gate Keeper:** Brad McCarrell

**Counters:** Terry Caldwell and Caleb Jakiel

**Greeters:** Warren and Sandy Higgs

**Live Stream Operator:**

Robin Heiple – Morning Worship Service

Liam Dion – Evening Worship Service

**Adult Sunday School**

***New Members Class***

Pastor Ray Heiple

*Room 409*

***Leviticus***

Pastor Rick Appleton

*Sanctuary*

**Schedule for Childcare This Sunday, October 18**

Sunday School Nursery	Robin Heiple and Sonya Campbell	9:15 a.m.
Worship Service Crib Room	David and Bethany Douglas	10:30 a.m.
Worship Service Toddler Room	Suzanne, Esther, and Ruth Auman	10:30 a.m.

**Schedule for Childcare Next Sunday, October 25**

Sunday School Nursery	Danny and Laura Priano	9:15 a.m.
Worship Service Crib Room	Josh and Jess Scheidler	10:30 a.m.
Worship Service Toddler Room	Kara-Mia, Grace, and Joy Appleton	10:30 a.m.
Kid's Bible College	Justin and Brittany Brothers	11:00 a.m.

## **OCTOBER 18**

Sun.	Instruments of Providence	8:30 a.m.
	Voices of Providence warm-up	8:45 a.m.
	Sunday School for All Ages	9:15 a.m.
	Morning Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
	Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.
Tues.	Women's AM Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
	Pickleball	6:30 p.m.
Wed.	Trail Life	7:00 p.m.
	Pioneer Clubs	7:00 p.m.
	Youth Group	7:00 p.m.
Thurs.	Women's PM Bible Study via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.

## **OCTOBER 25**

Sun.	Instruments of Providence	8:30 a.m.
	Voices of Providence warm-up	8:45 a.m.
	Sunday School for All Ages	9:15 a.m.
	Morning Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
	Kid's Bible College	11:00 a.m.
Tues.	Women's AM Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
	Pickleball	6:30 p.m.
Wed.	Trail Life	7:00 p.m.
	Pioneer Clubs	7:00 p.m.
	Youth Group	7:00 p.m.
Thurs.	Women's PM Bible Study via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Youth Group Fall Fun Fest at the Appleton's	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.

## **Financial Update Through September**

2020 Actual Giving	\$528,000
Previous Year Giving	\$510,000
2020 Budget	\$507,000
2020 Expenses	\$439,000
Actual Operational Expenses	\$430,000
Actual Capital Expenses	\$9,265
Williams Fund	\$23,474
Garrett Fund	\$21,947
Adoption Fund	\$3,352

### **Evening Worship Service**

Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. for our evening worship service. Pastor Appleton will be preaching on Ephesians 1:8-10, *The Mystery of His Will*.

### **Provisionally Speaking**

The October edition of *Provisionally Speaking* is available in the information table in the foyer.

### **Tabletalk**

The November edition of *Tabletalk* is available on the information table in the foyer.

### **Women's Fall Bible Study**

Join us for one of our Fall Bible Studies. We will meet on Tuesday, October 20 from 9:15 - 11:00 a.m. in Room 409 and Thursday, October 22, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, and will be discussing Lesson 5, Trinitarian Fellowship. Both studies are going through the Ligonier video series *Who is the Holy Spirit?* by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson. Please see Robin Ferguson or email [ppcwomensministry@gmail.com](mailto:ppcwomensministry@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### **Voices of Providence Sanctuary Choir**

The Sanctuary Choir has now resumed regular rehearsals on Saturday mornings at 9:30 (usually). We have ample music and robes to welcome any and all who would like to join with us in our praise of our glorious, loving heavenly Father. Please consider and pray if this might be an avenue of service for you. Simply speak to Frank Moser, our music director, for any details.

### **Baby Shower Ministry**

A special thank you to Erin Hannas for over five years of devotion to the Baby Shower Ministry. Erin will be stepping down from this ministry and we are looking for someone to fill this important role in the Church. If you are interested, please contact Erin at [erin.hannas@gmail.com](mailto:erin.hannas@gmail.com). She will be happy to let you know all the details.

## **Fall Fun Fest**

The youth group will be having a night of autumn fun and fellowship on Friday, October 30 at the Appleton's house. Join us between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. for pizza, pumpkin carving, games, and more! Please see Danny Priano or Kara-Mia Appleton to RSVP or for further details.

## **2021 Sr. High Mission Trip - East Bank, WV**

Members of the youth group will be traveling to East Bank, WV for our 2021 Sr. High mission trip. We are thrilled to be serving with Group Workcamps again. This is the same organization that we've gone on short-term mission trips with in the past such as Houston, TX and most recently Scranton, PA. We will serve God by serving others as we help the poor and elderly repair their homes by painting, drywalling, decking, and other interior/exterior work. Most importantly, we will be growing in our faith and sharing the truth of God's Word with those around us.

The trip is scheduled for June 27-July 3, 2021, and is for any youth group member that is entering 9th grade next fall to graduating high school seniors. To ensure your spot, you will need to provide a \$50 non-refundable deposit, which will come off of your total trip cost. Please make your check payable to Providence PCA, or pay by cash. If you already paid your \$50 deposit for the canceled Maumee, OH mission trip, you do not need to provide another deposit. Spaces are limited, and the final day to sign up is **Wednesday, October 28**. Please see Danny Priano for further details and to reserve your spot.

## **Providence YouTube Channel**

Each week, Pastors Ray & Rick are coming to you with NEW content on the Providence You Tube Channel. Subscribe to be sure you don't miss:

**ASK THE PASTORS** with Pastors Ray Heiple & Rick Appleton, taking on YOUR questions!

**WALKING WITH GOD**, a Journey in Psalms with Pastor Heiple

**PASTOR RICK'S CATECHISM CHALLENGE**

And of course, each Sunday we have our services both morning and evening available for LIVE STREAM.

## **Periodicals for Jail Inmates**

As part of our jail ministry, Providence is collecting magazines and devotional periodicals for Allegheny County Jail inmates on a regular basis. This is an ongoing activity by the chaplain's office at the jail. Most magazines of the type found in doctors' offices are acceptable. If you would like to donate, please place your magazines in the box labeled "Magazines for Inmates," located in the foyer. This is a request for help on an ongoing regular basis, not just for a one-time event. If you have any questions, please see John Allison.

## Choices Pregnancy Services' first-ever Night for Life **ONLINE FUNDRAISING EVENT**

2020 has given us all unforeseen challenges to overcome, and yet – the essential services of Choices Pregnancy Services have not skipped a beat. We need you to help us ensure that the important work being done by Choices continues into 2021 and beyond! **Be the One** to join our event and find out how God is actively at work saving & changing lives right here in Greater Pittsburgh.

*Hear inspirational stories, ministry updates and a financial challenge to **Be the One** to help save more lives.*



### **VIEWING OPTIONS:**

- Watch the premiere online in the comfort of your home.
- Consider hosting a **Watch Party** (in your home or church) and share the life affirming message with your friends, family or small group.  
*Watch Party Hosts will receive a customized Host Box with Choices literature, event materials, a special gift for your guests and more.*

### **HOW TO WATCH:**

- 1. REGISTER** with the enclosed card or online at:  
[www.ChoicesNightForLife.org](http://www.ChoicesNightForLife.org)
- 2. INVITE** friends to register with you or join your Watch Party.
- 3. TUNE-IN LIVE** on Thursday, November 12th, 2020.

*Please note, you must register in advance in order to receive the exclusive **Night for Life** event link.*

### **EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Our event may look a little different this year, but we still need help with sponsorship as we reach an even greater number of people virtually. Please call 724-457-1220 for information about making an investment as a

**Night for Life  
Virtual Sponsor.**

## **QUESTIONS?**

Need help registering?

Call 724-457-1220

[www.ChoicesNightForLife.org](http://www.ChoicesNightForLife.org)

## **PRAYER REMINDER**

To become a prayer partner or place a prayer request with the **prayer chain**, please call or email

Jan T. 412-787-1609, [janandgerry6@verizon.net](mailto:janandgerry6@verizon.net)

Please notify the Church office by phone at 412-788-6100, or email at [secretary@providencepgh.org](mailto:secretary@providencepgh.org) if you have any additions, deletions, or updates to the **bulletin Prayer Reminder**.

### **Members of PPC**

**Mike Y.** *prayer for recovery from broken leg, ankle and foot*

**Barb Y.** *prayer for recovery from two fractures in her pelvis and a fractured sacrum, she fell while in Seattle visiting her son*

Tim B. prayer for physical therapy for Achilles tendon surgery to be successful

Justin and Brittany B. praise, expecting in March

Nate and Judith D. praise, expecting in November

Chris and Sarah H. praise, expecting in October

Leslie H. prayer for continued rehabilitation

John and Annie H. praise, expecting in April

Nate and Jessie J. praise, expecting in April

Cody and Dori M. praise, expecting in November

Bob P. prayer for continued recovery for arms, legs, and back to strengthen

Noreen P. prayer for recovery from fall that required stitches

Linda S. prayer for successful physical therapy on her foot and ankle

Susan S. prayer for peace and contentment in God's perfect plan

Dave W. prayer for recovery from abdominal surgery

Rob and Gabrielle V. praise, expecting in April

### **Friends of PPC**

**Linda G.** *Robin V. sister – prayer for recovery from complicated hernia surgery*

**Dorothy J.** *friend of Glenn and Robin V. – prayer as she learns to walk with her prosthetic foot, and for strength and patience*

**Patty H.** *Eli and Betty Jane D. daughter – Prayer that the cyberknife treatment is effective along with her chemotherapy*

***Bold and italic*** - new or recent request

## MINISTRY CONTACTS

<i>Building Use Team</i> .....	<i>Denny Stewart</i>
<i>Childcare Scheduling</i> .....	<i>Caroline Richard</i>
<i>Christian Education Team</i> .....	<i>Dave Douglas/Brandon Pickett</i>
<i>Church Librarian</i> .....	<i>Robin Ferguson/Louse Franz</i>
<i>Church Life Team</i> .....	<i>Gerry Timberlake/Denny Stewart</i>
<i>Communion</i> .....	<i>Scott Ferguson</i>
<i>Fellowship Hall Sports/Recreation</i> .....	<i>Patrick Martin</i>
<i>Food Bank</i> .....	<i>Patrick Martin</i>
<i>Funeral Luncheons</i> .....	<i>Gail Burford</i>
<i>Greeters</i> .....	<i>Patty Martin</i>
<i>Hospitality &amp; Assimilation</i> .....	<i>Denny Baker/Paul Deffenbaugh</i>
<i>Kids Bible College</i> .....	<i>Dean Falavolito</i>
<i>Missions</i> .....	<i>Don Maurer/Bob Alouise/Denny Baker</i>
<i>Music Ministry</i> .....	<i>Frank Moser</i>
<i>Newsletter</i> .....	<i>Brian Jones</i>
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## THE FAITH THAT JUSTIFIES

*Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord.  
And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

Acts 13:48<sup>NKJV</sup>

Question 72 of the *Larger Catechism*, asks, "What is justifying faith?" It gives the answer, "Justifying faith is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and word of God, whereby he, being convinced of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition, not only assenteth to the truth of the promise of the gospel, but receiveth and resteth upon Christ and his righteousness, therein held forth, for pardon of sin, and for the accepting and accounting of his person righteous in the sight of God for salvation." Last week we examined how justification is entirely of the free grace of God. This week we consider the nature of justifying faith.

The first thing we notice about justifying faith is that it is a saving grace. The faith, through which God accepts you as righteous in His sight, is not your self-wrought work, but it is His gracious gift to you. Further, it is a gift not of God's common grace but of His saving grace. That means that everyone to whom God gives faith will be saved. When God gives the gift of faith, He causes it to be "wrought" into the heart of one of His elect. The word "wrought" just means to form, create, or make. Where God is pleased to justify a sinner, He acts to create faith in his heart. Thus, the sinner believes. God does not believe for him. And the sinner believes truly from his own heart: his faith is not something foreign to him that is forced upon him. When God gives justifying faith to a sinner that sinner suddenly wants to believe, where before he did not want to believe. The difference is the work that God has done in the heart.

Second, notice that this creation of faith in the heart of a sinner is accomplished by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. In the Scripture at the head of this article we see that it was when the Gentiles heard "the word of the Lord" that "as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed." God caused His elect to believe in His Word, which brought them into an estate of eternal life. This is the ordinary way salvation comes to all of God's elect. At a certain point in time God causes each one of them to not only hear His Word, but the Holy Spirit causes him to savingly believe in that Word. Paul taught the Corinthian Church that "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3b). Now obviously Paul did not mean that speaking the words "Jesus is Lord" is impossible to unbelievers! All English speaking people in their right minds and with functioning vocal cords can mouth the words "Jesus," "is," and "Lord," and say them together in a sentence. What Paul clearly meant is that no one can sincerely call Jesus "Lord," unless the Holy Spirit has given that person real faith. How does the Holy Spirit give faith to a sinner? Does the Bible tell us anything more about this work?

Yes. Citing a host of Scripture references (Acts 2:37; 4:12; 10:43; 16:30-31; Joh. 1:12; 16:8-9; Eph. 1:13; Phi. 3:9), the *Catechism* teaches us that in creating faith in the heart of one of God's elect, the Holy Spirit convinces the sinner of his sin and misery and of his disability to save himself. Think of Acts 2:37 where the Jewish audience was "cut to the heart" by Peter's message. Upon being convicted of the sin of murdering the Messiah they asked the apostles "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" They knew they could not save themselves from the evil they had done and consequently three thousand of them believed in Jesus for salvation. Thus, they received Peter's admonition to "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." These acts were the immediate results of turning away from their former lives of evil and trusting wholly in Christ to save them from their sins. In other words they were the fruit of their faith. In the language of the *Catechism*, they not only admitted and assented to the truth of the gospel, but they received and rested upon Christ alone for forgiveness and for righteousness, and thus they were baptized in His name. Their faith was subsequently made evident in their lives of repentance and good works. And so it is with all of us today. If the Holy Spirit has given you justifying faith, you should feel truly sorry for your sins, turning from them to God, and trusting in Christ alone for pardon and for righteousness. Your hope in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life, righteousness, and forgiveness of sins, which was expressed in your being baptized in His name for the remission of sins, should be evident in your life of loving obedience to your Savior and Lord!

*Pastor Heiple*

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