

The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



The Lord's Day
July 9, 2017

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

All Sunday School classes are suspended for the summer months. You are invited to stay after the service for a bit and enjoy coffee and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall. Our Evening Prayer Service will begin at 6 PM tonight.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: www.providencestlouis.com.

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 elders 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, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice; the larger outer ring contains wine (the grape juice has a darker color than the wine).

The Tree of Life (*Front Cover*)



In the Bible, trees are given to man for food and medicine as well as beauty and shade. Trees are an emblem of God's glory in the world and so are fitting symbols of God's people. We can flourish "like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither" (Psalm 1:3). The growth of the kingdom is likened to a rising, spreading tree (Ezek. 17; Matt. 13:31-32). Adam's fall severed us from access to the Tree of Life, but united to Christ we again have access to its life-giving fruit (Rev. 22:2).

This is Trinity Season and so the color of the Table cloth and pulpit scarf is **green**, symbolizing life, growth, and the maturation of Jesus kingdom.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — July 9, 2017
Trinity Season

Preparation For Worship: Psalm 135
Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeff Meyers

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship: *Psalm 135:1-3*

†Hymn #50 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Trinity Hymnal

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Your name, O Yahweh, endures forever,
your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages!

Psalm 135:13-14

For Yahweh will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants!

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord of life, by submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Help us now to proclaim to the world the marvelous mystery of your death and resurrection; as you now live and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, age after age. Amen!

Purification

†Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, let us draw near to God our Father with an honest heart and kneel and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake:

Come let us worship and bow down.

Psalm 95:6

And kneel before the Lord our Maker [Congregation kneels]

Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful Father, I have erred and strayed from your ways like a lost sheep. I have followed too much the devices and desires of my own heart. I have broken your gracious laws. I have left undone those things which I ought to have done; I have done those things which I ought not to have done. There is no health in me, but have mercy upon me, a miserable offender, O Lord. Spare me, heavenly Father, for I humbly confess my faults. Grant unto me the grace of repentance, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant, O most merciful God, for Christ's dear sake, that I may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of your holy name. Amen!

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads, arise, and hear the good news. . . !

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

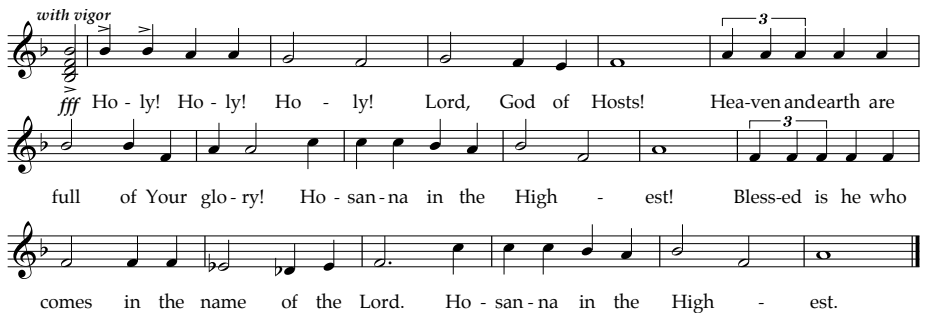
We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†The Sanctus



with vigor
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.

†Hymn of Praise: #197 "The day of resurrection" *Trinity Hymnal*

The Scripture Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Trinity Season

The Hebrew Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 24:1-22*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Titus 2:1-15*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:22-30*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God,
Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made:**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,**

and sits on the right hand of the Father.

**And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.**

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**And I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

†The *Gloria Patri*

The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

†Offertory Prayer

†Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Father, as you have given yourself to us in the person of your dear Son, so we now offer up to you ourselves through our tithes and offerings. Accept these gifts in union with the sacrifice of Christ our Lord. Grant that they may be used for the advancement of your kingdom throughout the world.

Congregation: Amen!

†The Kyrie

Lord we thank you for your good-ness, love and kind-ness ev - er new.
For the bless - ings you have prom-ised, for the strength to serve you well;
Bind your Church to - ge - ther closely, wit - ness to your Tri-une life.
For this ho - ly house - hold gather - ed here in faith and fear of God.

For the peace that reigns in heav-en; May that peace be ours here, too.
Lord, from foes that plot to harm us, And from Sa-tan, death, and hell.
To the wider world be gra-cious, May your peace ex - pand and grow.
As we of - fer now our wor - ship; hear and help, O Tri-une God

REFRAIN
By your mer - cy O de - liv - er us, good Lord.

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

Communion Hymn: #262 "God in the Gospel"

Trinity Hymnal

Communion in the Body & Blood of Our Lord

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): *Luke 2:30-32*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 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. Amen.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

†Pastoral Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, we have set all our hopes on your promises, since you have promised to be our Savior and deliver us from our sins as well as from all of our enemies; now help us to live in such a way that you are honored both in this life and the life to come; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #200 "Come, ye faithful, raise the strain"

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

The Evening Prayer Service

July 9, 2017 – 6 PM

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 11:16-24*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn #463 (*Psalms 130*) "From out of depths"

Trinity Hymnal

Opening Prayer & Hymn Singing

Scripture Reading & Message: *Matthew 11:16-30*

Pastor Meyers

Prayer Requests & Prayer

†Hymn #349 "This night we bless thee"

Trinity Hymnal

†Benediction & Dismissal

Announcements

Nursery Volunteers Today:

Morning Service – The Denney Family

Nursery Volunteers Next Week:

Morning Service – Emily Spear and Kathy Pratt

Evening Service Tonight — Our Evening Prayer Service will begin at 6 PM tonight and end at 7 PM. Join us as we pray for our church, our city, and the world. There will be no cookout tonight.

Vacation Bible School 2017 — This year's Vacation Bible School will take place July 24-28, and your help is needed. If you are interested in volunteering, speak with Anna More. There will be a VBS Staff Meeting after the morning service on July 16.

Men's Bible Summer Book Study — The men's summer Bible study/fellowship will meet again this Wednesday at 7 PM, at Pastor Meyers's home (9229 Lawndale Drive, Crestwood, MO 63126). We will be reading and discussing Rod Dreher's new book [The Benedict Option](#). We will be meeting almost every week through August 9. Please contact Pastor Meyers if you are interested, have any suggestions, or would like to offer your home as a meeting place for some of the evenings.

New Church Secretary — Jennifer Vermeer is our new secretary. You can reach Jennifer at vermeerjenniferl@gmail.com. She will, however, be out of town until next week. Until then please contact Pastor Meyers.

Session Meeting — The pastor and elders will have their monthly session meeting on Monday, July 10 at 7 PM. Please pray for them.

Donate to HOPE — Do you have a few boxes or bags of clothing, linens, household goods, or books laying around to give away? Pledge them to HOPE Chest to raise money for the Hope Community Project serving the greatest needs in Haiti! Donations can be brought to the PRPC during the week of VBS, 7/24-28. Contact Debbie Keane if you have any questions.

The Lord's Work in Burundi — Last Sunday, Georgette shared about God's faithfulness: ONE MEAL and La Providence Orphanage are thriving ministries in Burundi, Africa. The children of ONE MEAL and La Providence pray for the members of PRPC as we have remembered them in their misery and offered food and help through Georgette.

Our congregation has been praying for one year that the Lord would provide a truck for La Providence, and today, Wednesday, Georgette and I are going to Lou Fusz Toyota to see the truck that HE provided! Please join Georgette in giving thanks to generous Father God for good gifts!

On July 20 we will be shipping a container to Burundi with the pickup truck, the sleeping mats and bags that the women sewed, as well as two stoves and several other needed items.

If you would like to donate something from the following SPECIFIC LIST, please feel free to deliver it onto Brookie's back porch at your convenience. (Please make all deliveries before July 20.) Cash donations are also welcome. Checks can be made out to La Providence c/o Brookie Moore, 695 Hawbrook Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122

Still needed:

5 mattresses

4 bunk bed frames

twin bed sheets (used or new)

Summer clothing, underwear, socks, shoes (every size, childrens, mens, womens)

1 washing machine (dryer not needed)

1 hand-crank meat grinder

1 generator (power is shut off to the orphanage for several days each week!)

plates, cups, spoons, knives, forks

Large pots and pans

Serving spoons and spatulas

Hot pads, dish towels

Bath towels (used or new)

Sewing machine & sewing supplies

Children's literature

Educational games for children age 10 and under

Peanut Grinder

Flashlights (no batteries)

Garden tools & vegetable seeds

Household tools (hammers, screw drivers, nails, etc.)

WIC Book Discussion & Event — Saturday, July 15, at 6:30 PM is the next book discussion and WIC event. It will be at the home of Debbie Keane with a few plot twists. Please book your calendar for this page-turning event. We will be discussing Dorothy Sayers' Gaudy Night and much more! If you are new to PRPC and would like to be added to the WIC email list, please contact Debbie Keane (keaneacre@aol.com).

Looking for a Roommate & Place to stay — Rachel Bozarth has recommended Hannah Shackelford to our church as some one we might be able to help. She plans to visit and worship with us soon. Here is Hannah's note to me.

My name is Hannah Shackelford I am beginning a job at KIPP Wisdom academy in July and am in the search for a place to live. I am 24 years old, graduated from Liberty University, and spent the last 2 years teaching in a improvised rural area in South Carolina through *Teach for America*. I was hoping you'd be able to share my info in hopes that someone would have a rental property/need a roommate/ have some housing connections to help me transition to this city!

If you are interested in helping Hannah, please contact Pastor Meyers so he can pass along to you her contact information.

Church Calendar

Today	Evening Service at 6 PM (no cookout)
Monday, July 10	Session meeting, 7 PM
Wednesday, July 5	Men's Bible Study/Fellowship, 7 PM
Sunday, July 16	Evening Service at 6PM with cookout VBS Staff Meeting after the Morning Service
Saturday, July 15	WIC Book Discussion Event, 6:30 PM
July 24-28	Vacation Bible School

The Lord's Service Explained

The Absolution

After kneeling to confess our sins we rise to hear the declaration of forgiveness, often called "the absolution." To be absolved from the guilt of our sins is a formal, ministerial declaration of God's forgiveness. This gracious declaration of God is proclaimed by the minister, usually with a simple traditional formula of absolution or a short portion of God's Word that announces God's grace to those that confess their sins and trust in Jesus.

The intent of the absolution at the beginning of the Christian liturgy is to communicate very simply and powerfully to the gathered church that God in Christ forgives us and now receives us into his glorious presence. Forgiveness is announced by the Pastor who has been ordained by God to represent Christ to the people during the worship service. John Calvin applies John 20:19-23 to the ordinary office of the ministry:

We now see the reason why Christ employs such magnificent terms, to commend and adorn that ministry which he bestows and enjoins on the Apostles. It is, that believers may be fully convinced, and that what they hear concerning the forgiveness of sins is ratified, and may not less highly value the reconciliation *which is offered by the voice of men*, than if God himself stretched out his hand from heaven. And the church daily receives the most abundant benefit from this teaching, when it perceives that her pastors are divinely ordained to be sureties for eternal salvation, and that it must not go to a distance to seek the forgiveness of sins, which is committed to their trust.

Therefore, the word of forgiveness from the Pastor is a gift to the congregation so that they don't have "go to a distance to seek the forgiveness of sins."

The absolution is not a mini-sermon. It doesn't contain "illustrations" or quotations from famous Christians. This is not the place for the Pastor to tell stories or create rhetorically artful phrases in order to adorn the declaration and "make it stick." Why not? Because the absolution is designed to be heard by the congregation as the voice of their heavenly Father. It is not about some interesting or compelling personal story told by the Pastor or some cool quotation from a clever Christian author or theologian. We leave the voice of Augustine or John Calvin or C.S. Lewis out of it. The Pastor is not speaking on the authority of some Christian expert; neither is he speaking on his own authority. He should not be propping up God's declaration of forgiveness with either the authority of famous Christians or of a heart-warming story. If any of that is appropriate in Christian worship, it belongs in the sermon.

The Pastor simply and powerfully proclaims the forgiveness of sins and each member of the congregation is thereby challenged to *believe* that this is God's word of assurance to them personally. Feeling forgiven or sensing it in some mystical way *may* happen during the absolution, but it is not to be expected. By *faith* we trust we are forgiven by God even, maybe especially when we have no immediate sense or feeling that it is so. This is what true faith is all about.

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-374-5258	Ken Pratt	314-803-2340
Tom Hanley	314-750-0203	Monte Shields	314-681-1378
Robert Murphy	314-705-7445	John Moore (Clerk)	314-849-0597
		Jason Carter	636-222-8655

The Deacons

Daryl Hoegemann	314-714-9270	Skip Jaeggi	314-631-4394
Cory Mitchell	636-248-2415	Pat Staebel	314-303-4369
Liessman Sturlaugson	314-323-5589	Todd Tageson	314-892-8982

Women in the Church Officers & Department Heads

President: Bo Hanley	314-283-0674	Nursery: Mary Beth Denny	636-226-5630
Vice President: Kathy Hoegemann		Jennifer Horne	
314-714-9270		314-225-5036	
Secretary: Debbie Keane	314-249-3108	Bethel: Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung	
Treasurer: Amy Sterner	314-606-6900	Kitchen: Kathy Pratt	
Prayer Chain: Donna Byerly	314-698-6021	314-856-5778	
madonna.byerly@att.net		Maggie Montgomery	
		314-283-0319	
		Hospitality: Barb Hoover	

Church Staff

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
jeffmeyers@me.com	314-374-5258 (C)	Jennifer Vermeer (Secretary)	208-899-9123
Rev. Tim Weston	314-814-2019	vermeerjennifer@gmail.com	
Pastor to International Students			

Pastoral Interns

Drew Maney	850-499-7680	Robert Murphy	314-705-7445
Cody Dotson	858-699-7742	Caleb Skogen	910-639-3239

Home and Foreign Ministries

Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Khen & Rith Tombing	India
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	(Covenant Children's Home)	
Dan & Becky Young	Mexico	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia	Graham & Sarah Purcell	MTW (Russia)