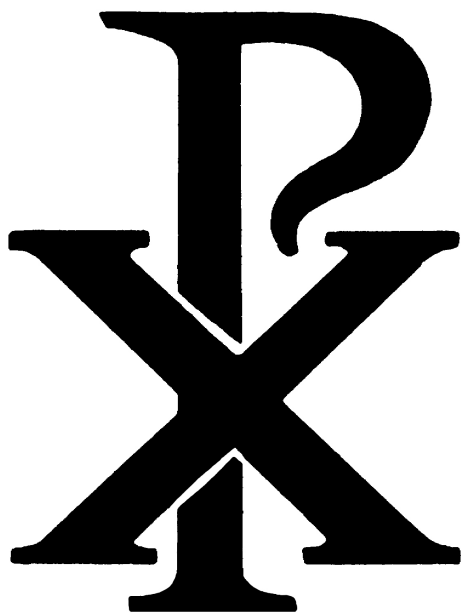


The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

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



Trinity Season
September 17, 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.

Sunday school meets shortly after the morning service. Please see the announcements below for more information. There will be no evening service tonight. Parish groups will meet this afternoon.

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 Chi Rho (Front Cover)



The Chi-Rho is the oldest known monogram of Jesus Christ. It is sometimes known as a "Christogram". The *chi* and the *rho* are the first two letters of the word Christ (*Christos*) in the Greek language. The *chi* (Χ) = ch and the *rho* (Ρ) = r. The Greek word *christos* translates the Hebrew word for "Messiah," which means "anointed one." Jesus was born to be the promised anointed Priest and King.

This is Trinity Season, 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 — September 17, 2017

Trinity Season

Preparation For Worship: *Psalm 100*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeff Meyers

The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeff Meyers

[*Kneeling*] Silent Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

Mr. Cody Dotson

Leader: Let us rise and worship God, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen!**

†Hymn #1 (*Ps. 100*) "All people that on earth do dwell" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Our help is in the Name of Yahweh!

Psalm 124:8

Who made heaven and earth!

The Lord is my shepherd;

Psalm 23:1-3

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

†Leader: Let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God, our Father, grant, we ask, that we who celebrate this glorious resurrection feast today, may honor and praise you, who, through your only-begotten Son, has overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. Amen!

Purification

†Leader: O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;

Psalm 131:1-2

My eyes are not raised too high.

I do not occupy myself with things,

Too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,

Like a weaned child with its mother.

Come let us worship and bow down.

Psalm 95:6

And kneel before the Lord our Maker [*Congregation Kneels*]

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbor, in thought, word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done, through ignorance, through weakness, and through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. Amen!

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 proper, right, and our greatest joy, that we should at all times, and in all places, give praise to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, 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: #219 “Blessing and honor” *Trinity Hymnal*

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Ecclesiastes 5:1-20*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn #291 (*Psalms 127*) “Unless the Lord” *Trinity Hymnal* (Tune of #100)

The Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 13:1-16*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 12:13-34*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

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 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.

Tune: St. Austin; arr. from Gregorian chant for the *Bristol Tune Book*, 1876
Text: Jeffrey J. Meyers (2016)

Sermon Text: *1 Timothy 6:2b-10, 17-19*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: **HOW TO BE A RICH CHRISTIAN**

†Psalm 73

Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.

They scoff and speak with malice;

loftily, they threaten oppression.

They set their mouths against the heavens,

and their tongue struts through the earth.

Therefore his people turn back to them,

and find no fault in them.

And they say, "How can God know?

Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

Behold, these are the wicked;

always at ease, they increase in riches.

All in vain have I kept my heart clean

and washed my hands in innocence.

For all the day long I have been stricken

and rebuked every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus,"

I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

But when I thought how to understand this,

it seemed to me a wearisome task,

until I went into the sanctuary of God;

then I discerned their end.

Truly you set them in slippery places;

you make them fall to ruin.

How they are destroyed in a moment,

swept away utterly by terrors!

Like a dream when one awakes,

O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

When my soul was embittered,

when I was pricked in heart,

I was brutish and ignorant;

I was like a beast toward you.

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;

you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,

and afterward you will receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;

you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

But for me it is good to be near God;

I have made the Lord God my refuge,

that I may tell of all your works.

The Tribute Offering

†[Hands Raised] The Doxology

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

†Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. We are thankful that we can always trust in you. You are a generous God, and out of your great mercy you have given us much. We present to you these tithes and offerings and with them give our whole selves to you. Accept both us and these offerings and use us as you use them to advance your kingdom and your glory. Extend and multiply the reach and influence of Christ's kingdom, we pray.

Congregation: **Amen!**

And now we are bold to pray as our Lord has taught us . . .

†The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Bread of Life

Hymn #364 "Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless" *Trinity Hymnal*

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Wine of Gladness

Pastoral Benediction: "Now may the body and 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 merciful God, of your bountiful goodness, keep us from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may with free hearts accomplish those things that you would have done in the world; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #136 “Ye servants of God”

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

Announcements

Nursery Volunteers Today:

Morning Service – Melanie Carter

Sunday school - Ashley Nelson, Maggie Montgomery

Nursery Volunteers Next Week:

Morning Service – Deborah Shields

Sunday school - Abigail Gross, Barb Hoover

Evening Service: Volunteers Needed

Parish Groups Meet Today — The parish groups lists can be found on the table in the foyer or online in the members only section of the website. If you have not been assigned to a Parish Group, please see the pastor or one of the elders. There will be no evening service tonight.

Sunday School Continues — Today we continue our Fall and Winter semester of Sunday School. There is a chart on the table in the foyer that will help you determine where your child’s class will be meeting this morning. The Adult Sunday School class will meet in the fellowship hall.

Adult Education Class on Beauty — Today we begin our new Fall class on “Christian Perspectives on Beauty.” The class will be taught by Pastor Meyers, Dr. Kornu, and Caleb Skogen. This class will have two objectives: 1) to help Christians sense beauty in God’s creation as well as in human artifacts, and 2) to encourage Christians to participate in the beautification project God has entrusted to humanity. There are no required texts for this class. Just come and listen to the lectures and join in on the discussion. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall after the coffee break.

WIC Mystery Party — Ladies, you are all invited to our first ever WIC Mystery Party on September 29th at 7 pm at the church. It’s time to put your detective skills to use and come help us solve the mystery! No preparation or costumes are needed, and appetizers, dessert, and drinks will be provided. You only need to bring yourself! We hope you will be able to join us as we take this opportunity to relax and enjoy fellowship and FUN with one another!

Dinners for Eight — Sign up for a great time of fellowship as either a host or a guest for our Fall 2017 Dinners for Eight on either *Friday, October 20th* or *Saturday, October 21st*, whatever works best for you. We will then match up the hosts with guests. It's up to the host to notify the guests what to bring and what time it starts. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know someone new, deepen relationships, and show hospitality. We are looking into the possibility of providing babysitting at the church – more info to come on that! If you have questions, contact Monte Shields.

Ladies Bible Study — The weekly Bible study for women will meet this Thursday. We meet in the Educational Wing. The study begins at 9:30 AM and ends between 10:30 and 11 AM (depending on the amount of time spent in prayer and fellowship after the teaching and discussion). This fall, we will be reading through the narratives in early Genesis, starting with the story of Cain & Abel in Genesis 4. Pastor Meyers will be teaching and leading the discussion. There's a lot to learn and talk about in these chapters of Genesis. Child care is provided. If you have any questions, please talk to Kathy Hoegemann or Pastor Meyers.

Choir — The fall Choir season has begun, and we'd love to have you join us! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M. We sing during morning worship several times a month from September through May and also during special evening services (Reformation 500th Anniversary, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Good Friday). The choir is open to high school juniors and older. For more information, contact Bill Hoover ([314\) 540-2427](tel:3145402427), billhoover@fastmail.com.

Greater St. Louis Life Chain — The annual Greater St. Louis Life Chain will be held on Sunday, October 1st from 1:30-3:30 PM. Everyone at Providence is encouraged to show support for the sanctity of life by participating in the Providence Life Chain, which will form in front of our church on Sappington Rd. A light lunch will be provided for all who attend. A sign-up sheet will be passed around during Sunday school next week.

Church Calendar

Today	Sunday School at 11:10 AM Parish Groups Meet (no evening service)
Thursday, Sept 14	Rooted Meeting at Church, 7 PM Ladies Bible Study, 9:30 AM at church
Wednesday, Sept 20	Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
Friday, Sept 29	WIC Mystery Party, 7 PM
Wednesday, Oct 4	Men of the Covenant Meeting
Monday, Oct 9	WIC Book Discussion, 7 PM
Saturday, Oct 14	Fall Harvest Party at Whitecliff Park
Sunday, Oct 29	MO Presbytery Reformation Day Service, 6 PM

The Lord's Service Explained

Why Do We use Set Prayers?

First, we don't naturally know how to pray, and pre-composed prayers can help train our minds to pray biblically. Good prayers guide us and assist us in composing our own private prayers, both with respect to content and structure. Almost all the phrases from all the prayers that we use in our worship come right out of the Bible. Thus, ultimately, we are praying God's Word. There are biblical ways to pray, and these pre-composed prayers, used consistently, will help you learn how to pray. Surely this is the reason why so many prayers are recorded for us in the Bible. The traditional prayers of the Church offer the worshiper guidance and direction, oftentimes by utilizing the language and structure (order of prayer) lifted right from the Bible itself.

Second, prayers sung or said in unison manifest the *unity* of the church in prayer. We all pray together as the corporate Body of Christ, not just as a bunch of individuals. Corporate worship is not designed merely as an aid to each individual's devotions. We don't come into church to worship merely as individuals with our own private tubes to God. We come together as the Body of Christ, and as the Body of Christ we confess our sins, pray, and praise God together. The Spirit re-creates us into a community by means of common prayer.

Third, printed prayers insure congregational participation in the prayers. Remember worship ought not to be something you come to watch or hear, rather you come to perform worship yourself. Think about this: it is very difficult to get distracted when you are saying a prayer out loud. It is hard to do anything else but pray the prayer. A set prayer insures your participation and guards against your mind wandering. It is much more difficult for your mind to wander when your attention is focused on reading and saying a prayer that you are familiar with than it is when you have your eyes closed and are merely listening to the pastor pray. Let's face it—most people find it very difficult to concentrate on praying when someone else is saying a long prayer. If you aren't familiar with the prayer that you are reading or hearing, then you will have to evaluate it as you are praying. And how much more effective would it be to recite prayers that you trust and know by heart?

Fourth, no church can avoid prayer rituals altogether. You either have good prayer rituals or you have bad ones, helpful or dangerous ones, but it is impossible to be free from all forms in a church's corporate prayer life. Congregations that never use prayer books or set prayers, nevertheless, do develop, sometimes unknowingly (which is unfortunate), certain habits with respect to praying. You know very well what happens when there is no guidance or direction to the prayers. Prayers become tedious: "I just want to thank you, Lord...and I just want to ask...and I just want..." Or they become trivial and down right silly: "O Lord, help us to be all that we can be" (the Army Prayer) or "Lord, help us to reach out and touch somebody this week" (the AT&T prayer).

Obviously, we are not obliged to use all kinds of pretentious words and grandiose phrases in order for our prayers to be acceptable to God. I'm not trying to put down anyone's prayer merely because it is not as well structured and manicured as someone else's. God is pleased with the meager and unsophisticated prayers of his people, just as he is pleased with a young child's. But—and here's the important point—if the child never grows up and learns how to pray biblically, if the content of his prayers remain the same, then it is not so cute anymore. God may be pleased with a childlike prayer, but he is not satisfied with it either. He expects us to grow up and learn how to pray like adults, to conform our prayers more and more to the models he has given us in the Scriptures.

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 Skogon	910-639-3239
Joel Nelson	573-825-1104		

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)