

The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

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



Trinity Season

July 1st, 2018

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. There will be no evening service 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 1st, 2018
Trinity Season

Preparation For Worship: *Proverbs 17*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Elder Jason Carter

The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Jason Carter

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship: *Psalm 96:3, 7-9*

Mr. Caleb Skogen

†Hymn # 305 "O Lord of Hosts, how lovely"

Trinity Hymnal

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: We worship God in the Name of the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

Hebrews 12:2

The author and perfecter of our faith!

Who for the joy set before him endured the cross,

**Despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand of
the throne of God**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning, and though we have in no way deserved your goodness, you still abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we pray, the fullness of your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Purification

†Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill of Yahweh? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false. Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will exalt you: [Congregation kneels]

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the evil desires of our own hearts. We have willingly broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us all of our sins. Turn our wandering hearts back to you, and lead us by your Holy Spirit in the way of righteousness, holiness, and truth.

Silent Prayer. 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!

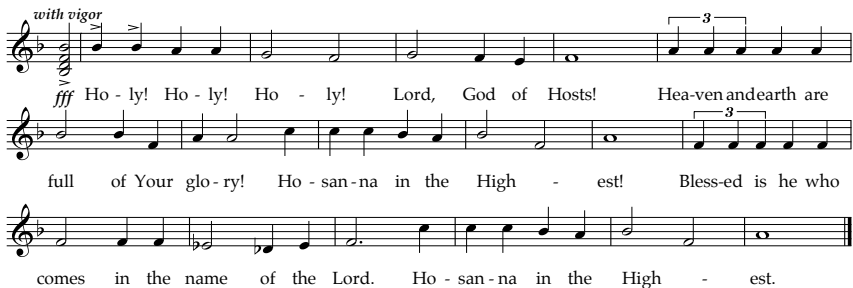
†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, who with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. 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 #54 (*Psalm 119*) "For ever settled in the heav'ns" *TH*

The Hebrew Scripture: *Proverbs 10:11-20* Mr. Caleb Skogen

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The New Testament Reading: *James 1:19-27*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 10:5-20*

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*

**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!**

Sermon: **HOLDING BACK**

†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 Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

† [Hands Raised] The Doxology

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

†Offertory Prayer

Our Holy and Triune God, for your glory and the advancement of your kingdom, with grateful, joyous, and faithful hearts, we present to you these tithes and offerings, representing ourselves and our works. Multiply these gifts and increase their usefulness; magnify your Name and purposes in their distribution; continually increase in us the joy of honoring you; now set your blessing upon us all, supplying our every need according to your riches and glory in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen!**

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

† [Hands Raised] The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Bread of Life

Hymn #547 "My Jesus I love thee"

Trinity Hymnal

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Wine of Gladness

†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: Everlasting Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #269 "Glorious things of thee are spoken" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude

Sermon Notes & Prayer Requests

Announcements

Nursery Volunteers Today:

Morning Service – Jessica Murphy and Amy Sterner
Sunday School – Sunday School is suspended for the summer

Nursery Volunteers Next Week:

Morning Service – Randy & Carolyn Stone

Evening Service Tonight — No evening service tonight.

Summer WIC Event — There will be a book discussion dinner Saturday, July 28, 6:30 pm at the home of Debbie Keane, 130 Tall Oaks Dr, Eureka. We will have an extended version of our regular book discussions including dinner, games, & prizes, along with the fun and lively discussion that we always enjoy! Plan to come - even if it's your first time! We will be discussing Tim Keller's *Prodigal God*. Don't miss out on the fun! Save the date now! Sign up sheet will be available July 10.

Deacon's Fund Offering — The deacons fund offering will be received this morning. Money from this offering is used by the deacons to help the needy in our congregation and community. If contributing by check, please write "Deacons Fund" on the memo line of your check. You may also use the provided envelopes in your bulletin or on the narthex table to enclose your check or to give by cash.

Men's Summer Discussion Fellowship — The men's summer Bible study/fellowship continues on Wednesday, July 11. The meeting place is TBD. **We will be reading and discussing of John Frame's new book** *Christianity Considered: A Guide for Skeptics and Seekers*. We have copies of the book for sale on the book table.

Pastor Meyers on Vacation — Pastor Meyers will be on vacation this week. He will return on Monday July 2.

Session Meeting — The pastor and elders had to cancel the June monthly session meeting. They will meet again on Monday, July 2. Please pray for them.

Meals for a New Mother — If you can help provide some meals for Matthew and Catie Hon in July, please contact Barb Hoover (314-504-3488). Catie is due on July 8.

Cookouts Return! — The outcry for Summer cookouts has reached the ears of Providence planners. We will have our first one on Sunday, July 8th, immediately after the Evening Prayer service. The Prayer Service will begin at 6 PM and the cookout will follow. Bring something to grill, something to share, drinks, chairs, and enjoy the fellowship!

Vacation Bible School 2018: Important Dates —

July 8th - VBS staff meeting in the choir room immediately following morning worship.

July 15th - teacher work day for classroom set-up, 2-4 pm

July 16-20 - VBS, 9am-noon

July 20 - VBS closing program, 7pm

This year's Vacation Bible School will take place July 16-20, and your help is needed. If you are interested in volunteering, speak with Anna More. This year's Vacation Bible School will support HOPE Community Project. HOPE is hosting a Savers Fundrive (we did this last year too!). Donations of clothing and household goods will be weighed and Savers will pay cash for every ounce we bring in! See Debbie Keane or Anna More for details.

VBS Teachers and Volunteers — Looking for a great ministry opportunity this summer? Volunteer for VBS! We typically serve 60-100 kids each year and need your help! There are a variety of ways to be involved - no commitment is too small. See Anna More for more details or to volunteer. 314-600-3525 or annahoegemann@gmail.com.

Help With Moving — The Humphreys family (Micah & Emily with their children Anabelle, Deacon, and Shepherd) is moving to St. Louis and they plan on being a part of our church. They will need help unpacking the truck on Thursday, July 5th, at 2 PM or so. The address is 1202 Ridgelawn Lane, St. Peters, MO. Please let the deacons know if you are able to help them.

Facebook & Website — Check out our Facebook page for links to interesting articles and other information. Our church website is providencesstlouis.com. You can find sermon files and the directory there in the "members only" section. If you'd like the password to that section, please contact Pastor Meyers (and you don't need to be a member to get the password, just a regular attender).

Church Calendar

Today	Deacon's offering received NO Evening Service
Monday, July 2	Session meets at 7 PM
Thursday, July 5	Rooted Meeting
Sunday, July 8	Evening service at 6 PM Cookout afterward
July 16-20	Vacation Bible School
Saturday, July 28	WIC Book Discussion
Sunday, August 5	Fellowship Brunch after morning service

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, 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 (Pastor & 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
Joel Montgomery	314-795-5678	Jason Carter	636-222-8655

The Deacons

Daryl Hoegemann	314-714-9270	Todd Tageson	314-892-8982
Liessman Sturlaugson	314-323-5589	Phillip Johnson	314-502-3828
Skip Jaeggi	314-631-4394	Bob Wooldridge	314-369-5204
Dan Hayes	314-807-6129	Alan Handermann	314-651-5010

Women in the Church Officers & Department Heads

President: Bo Hanley	314-283-0674	Nursery: Ginny Sturlaugson	281-898-8192
VP: Marylynne Handermann	828-231-0490	Bethel: Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung	
Secretary: Debbie Keane	314-249-3108	Kitchen: Kathy Pratt.	314-856-5778
Treasurer: Luz Wooldridge	314-443-8312	Maggie Montgomery	314-283-0319
Prayer Chain: Debbie Zintel	314-221-8913	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-504-3488
dzintel@msn.com		Wedding Coordinator: Barb Hoover	

Church Staff

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Catie Skogen (Secretary)	214-850-1904
jeffmeyers@me.com	314-374-5258 (C)	catieskogen@gmail.com	
Mr. Caleb Skogen (Youth Pastor)		Jeffrey Meyers, Jr. (Bookkeeper)	
cskoge10@yahoo.com	910-639-3239	jeffmeyersjr@gmail.com	314-372-7005
Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-540-2427		

Pastoral Interns

Joel Nelson	573-825-1104	Caleb Skogen	910-639-3239
Robert Murphy	314-705-7445	Dylan Stinson	615-844-8115

Home and Foreign Ministries

Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Nick McDonald	RUF Univ of Missouri
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Graham & Sarah Purcell	MTW (Russia)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Cody & Molly Dotson	Brooklyn, NY
Dan & Becky Young	Mexico	Ryan & Erin Van Horn	Chattanooga, TN
Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia	Georgette	Burundi, Africa
Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City	Hope Community Project	Haiti
Khen & Ruth Tombing	India	Missouri Presbytery (PCA)	
(Covenant Children's Home)		Theopolis Institute	Birmingham, AL