



Providence

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ

August 7, 2022

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ

We welcome you to our Communion service this morning and invite to the table all those who believe in Jesus Christ and are members in good standing in any evangelical church. It is our custom to hold the elements and commune together.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND PPC FAMILY NEWS

TIME OF REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

Morning Sun

SUMMER SANCTUARY CHOIR

*On the first day of the week Mary came, the grave to seek,
Jesus met her by the way on that first resurrection day!*

*Hiding in that secret room, his disciples full of gloom and sorrow,
suddenly the Lord appeared, "Death is conquered – dry your tears!"*

*REFRAIN: Rising like the morning sun, bringing hope to everyone;
praise the Lord, His work was done; Jesus is my morning sun!*

MUSIC ANNO DOMINI and text: James C. Ward, 1975. Copyright © 1975, Celebration Press/ASCAP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

All: *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.*

Leader: For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

All: *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalms 16

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

CONFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
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 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 is seated at 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 we 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 worshiped and glorified;
Who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christopher Wordsworth, 1862

Trinity 283

EBENEZER: Thomas John Williams, 1890

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to
2. Christ is ris - en, Christ the first - fruits of the
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry

heav'n and voic - es raise; sing to God a
ho - ly har - vest field, which will all its
be to God on high; al - le - lu - ia

hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise:
full a - bun - dance at his sec - ond com - ing yield:
to the Sav - ior, who has won the vic - to - ry;

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the
then the gold - en ears of har - vest will their
al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of

world's sal - va - tion bled, Je - sus Christ, the
heads be - fore him wave, rip - ened by his
love and sanc - ti - ty. Al - le - lu - ia!

King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
glo - rious sun - shine from the fur - rows of the grave.
Al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

SCRIPTURE READING

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall

bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

“Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the LORD. Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited. Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.”

Isaiah 53:1-54:5

Doxology

Thomas Ken, 1709

Trinity 731

OLD HUNDREDDTH: Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Him all crea-tures here be - low: Praise
 9 Him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host, praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost: A - men.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Offertory

Hail to the Prince of Life and Peace

Craig Curry

SUMMER SANCTUARY CHOIR

*Hail to the Prince of Life and Peace who holds the keys of death and hell!
 The spacious unseen world is His, and sov'reign pow'r becomes Him well.*

*In shame and torment once He died, but now He lives forevermore.
 Bow down, ye saints, around His seat, and all ye angel bands adore.*

*So live forever, glorious Lord, to crush Thy foes and guard Thy friends!
 While all the chosen tribes rejoice that Thy dominion never ends.*

*Worthy Thy hands to hold the keys, guided by wisdom and by love.
 Worthy to rule o'er mortal life, o'er worlds below and worlds above.*

*Forever reign, victorious King! Wide through the earth Thy name is known,
 and call my longing heart to sing sublimer anthems near Thy throne.*

Copyright © 2009 Harold Flammer Music (A Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.)

Up from the Grave He Arose

Robert Lowry, 1874

Trinity 276

CHRIST AROSE: Robert Lowry, 1874

- 1. Low in the grave He lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior! Wait - ing the com - ing day,
- 2. Vain - ly they watch His bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior! Vain - ly they seal the dead,
3. Death can-not keep his prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior! He tore the bars a - way,

Refrain
Je - sus my Lord! Up from the grave He a - rose, With a
He a-rose,

might - y tri - umph o'er His foes; He a - rose a Vic - tor from the
He a-rose!

dark do - main, And He lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign, He a -

rose! He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON

Matthew 28:1-6^{NKJV}

He Is Risen

Dr. Ray E. Heiple, Jr.

- 1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.
- 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.
- 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.
- 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.
- 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.
- 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Notes

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Salvation Belongs to our God

Arr. J. Moser



Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God, who sits on the throne,
And we, the re - deemed, shall be strong in pur - pose and u - ni - ty,



and un - to the Lamb. Praise and glo - ry, — wis - dom and thanks,
de - clar - ing a - loud, praise and glo - ry, — wis - dom and thanks,



hon - our — and pow - er — and strength. Be to our God for - e - ver — and e - ver,
hon - our — and pow - er — and strength.



be to our God for - e - ver and e - ver, be to our God for - e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

Words and music by Adrian Howard and Pat Turner © 1985 Restoration Music Ltd. CCLI License #173651

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

PASSING THE BREAD

SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Jack W Hayford, 1986

Trinity 286

REGENT SQUARE; Henry T. Smart, 1867

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
2. See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
3. Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with power;
4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
5. We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;

Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
"Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares."
• all hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand his hour.
but the truth proclaims a wonder, thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!
• He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!
He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

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

Deacon of the Month: Tim Martin

Gate Keeper: Cody McBee

Counters: John Rotellini and Tim Kohler

Greeters: Kara-Mia Appleton and Olivia Corsello

Live Stream Operators:

Robin Heiple – Morning Worship Service

Ray Heiple – Evening Worship Service

Adult Sunday School

The Letters of Peter

Elder Don Maurer
Room 409

The Book of Job

Elder Dave Douglas
Sanctuary until August 28

Schedule for Childcare This Sunday, July 31

Sunday School Nursery	Nathan and Judith Dinsmore	9:15 a.m.
Infant Nursery	Denise and Rachel Baird	10:30 a.m.
Toddler Nursery	Joe and Bethany Zygorzinski	10:30 a.m.
Children's Church	David and Esther GoForth	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	Suzanne, Esther, and Ruth Auman	6:00 p.m.

Schedule for Childcare Next Sunday, August 7

Sunday School Nursery	Nathaniel and Dawn Butterworth	9:15 a.m.
Infant Nursery	Tim and Caity Martin	10:30 a.m.
Toddler Nursery	Barbara Kuhn and Rachael Holden	10:30 a.m.
Children's Church	Aaron and Jaclyn Prinkey	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	Dave and Sonya Eurich	6:00 p.m.

AUGUST 7

Sun.	Instruments of Providence	8:30 a.m.
	Sanctuary Choir 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.
Wed.	GriefShare Ministry	6:30 p.m.
Sat.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.

AUGUST 14

Sun.	Instruments of Providence	8:30 a.m.
	Sanctuary Choir warm-up	8:45 a.m.
	Sunday School for all ages	9:15 a.m.
	Morning Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
	Kids' Bible College	11:00 a.m.
Tues.	Pickleball	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	Providence Picnic	6:00 p.m.
Fri.	Men's Roadshow – Trey Jackson	6:30 p.m.
Sat.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.

Financial Update Through July

2022 Actual Giving	\$479,000
Previous Year Giving	\$424,000
2022 Budget	\$434,000
2022 Total Expenses	\$440,000
Actual Operational Expenses	\$389,000
Actual Capital Expenses	\$51,000
Williams Fund	\$32,000
Garrett Fund	\$23,000
Adoption Fund	\$4,000

Evening Worship Service

Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. for our evening worship service. Rev. Rick Appleton will be preaching on 2 Chronicles 20:1-30, *Jehoshaphat with a PH*.

Pancake Breakfast Fellowship Meal

Join us today at 5:00 p.m. for our Monthly Pancake Dinner! Our dinner includes pancakes, eggs, and sausage meal. We will have gluten-free options available. Please see Justin Shaffer (412-215-7559) or Jake Noullet (412-228-7837) with any questions about the event.

Providence Summer Picnic

Join us for our Providence picnic on Wednesday, August 17, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Clever Park Rotary Pavilion. The deacons will be providing the main dish. We are asking for everyone to bring some food. If your last name begins with A-M please bring a dessert; last names beginning with N-Z please bring a salad or side dish. Sign-up at the information desk in the foyer, or email Karen at secretary@providencephg.org. Please contact Pat Martin at 412-716-4081 with any questions.

Men's Bible Fellowship Roadshow!

The Roadshow is heading to the home of Trey Jackson, August 19, at 6:30 p.m. Hosts provide the food. Everyone attending should give \$7 to the host in order to defray the costs. Also, check with the host if you would like to bring something. The Bible study begins at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up at the desk in the foyer and include your email address, as study materials will be sent out to you via email the week of the meeting.

Move-Up Sunday – First Grade Bibles

Calling all kids entering first grade! Providence is continuing the tradition of presenting Bibles to children entering first grade during our Move-Up Sunday event on September 12. A sign-up sheet for Bibles is available on the information desk in the foyer until August 22. Please enter your child's name as you would like it printed in the Bible.

Providence Community Festival Booths: Volunteers Needed

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the return of the Providence booth at several local community events this summer! This year, we'll have a booth at both the Kennedy Days festival (Thursday, August 18th through Saturday, August 20th at Fairhaven Park) as well as the Robinson Autumn Festival (Saturday, September 17th at Burkett Recreation Complex). Volunteers from Providence can sign up for 2-hour time slots (one slot or multiple) to represent our church and hand out free Bibles and other church information at either of these events. The sign-up form for Kennedy Days will be out on the sign-up table through July, and the form for the Robinson Autumn Festival will be out later in August. Please consider volunteering or stopping by to support our volunteers as they represent our church at these events, and pray that the Lord will bless our local community through these efforts! Contact Adam Shaffer at adamshaffer89@gmail.com or 412-215-1846 for any questions or details.

2022 Always Ready Youth Event

APOLOGETICS 101: THE BASICS by Ligonier Ministries

Christian young people face a variety of attacks on the truth of Christianity, and it is vital that they be prepared to give an answer for the hope within them. To help equip young Christian men and women for defending the faith, Stephen Nichols will provide an overview of key issues in apologetics and give answers to some of the most common attacks on the Christian faith. This event, designed for ages 12-18, is being held on Thursday, August 18, 2022, from 6:00-9:00 PM at New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Monroeville, PA. Registration price of \$25 per person includes a T-shirt. See Sonya Eurich for more information or go to www.ligonier.org/posts/2022-always-ready-conference-in-pittsburgh to register.

Personal Finance Course @ Providence This Fall

What if you were following a plan for your money that you KNEW worked? With Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future. This 9-week personal finance course will be held this fall at Providence Presbyterian Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. starting on Wednesday September 14. Scholarships are available. Childcare is provided. Please sign up/register for this class at the sign-up sheet in the foyer. If you're interested in learning more about this valuable course or would like to inquire about a scholarship, see Caleb Jakiel (412-995-8067) or Tim Martin (412-865-5456).

Tabletalk

The August edition of *Tabletalk* is available on the information table.

Providentially Speaking

The August edition of *Providentially Speaking* is available on the information table.

Robinson Township Christian School

Robinson Township Christian School is excited to announce openings for the following positions for the 2022-2023 academic year due to growth in enrollment:

5th & 6th Grade Teacher (Full-time, all subjects)

Science Teacher (9th-12th grade; Part-time; Chemistry, Physics & General Science)

Art Teacher (K-6th; Part-time)

Home Economics Teacher (7th-8th grade, One class per week)

For additional information or to apply for a position, please send a Letter of Interest and Resume to: Mary Kenyon, Principal, and the Education Committee at hr@trtcsonline.org applicants must be a member in good standing of a confessional Reformed church and possess a bachelor's degree.

Since RTCS is hiring many new staff members for the upcoming school year, some will be relocating and looking for housing in the area. If you own rental properties or know of opportunities for local housing, please contact Dave West at dwest@rtcsonline.org.

Robinson Township Christian School | 77 Phillips Lane,
Robinson Twp., PA 15136 | 412-787-5919

Needed: RTCS Robotics Club Mentors

After taking a few years off due to the pandemic (canceled competitions), RTCS is re-starting its Robotics Club activities and we need adult supervisors. Students Grades 7-12 meet weekly at RTCS to learn about, build and program robots that are age appropriate. The students learn engineering design principles while engaging on hands-on assembly of robots. The robots are equipped with electro-mechanical assemblies, sensors, and a programmable controller that allows the students to experiment with programming and automation. The students are provided with a competition in which teams of students are tasked with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge.

If you want to be someone who mentors, encourages, and focuses the kids' activities on a weekly basis, please let me know at bcampbell@rtcsonline.org or 412-312-0756.

Bryan Campbell

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
Please notify the Church office by phone at 412-788-6100 or email at secretary@providencespgh.org if you have any additions, deletions, or updates to the **Bulletin Prayer Reminder**.

Members of PPC

Don M. prayer for recovery from Covid
Phil and Katie B. praise, expecting in December
Terry C. prayer, Terry was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer; prayer for good results from upcoming radiation treatment
Cody and Dori M. praise, expecting in December
*Sergio and Erin M. praise, expecting twins in October
Nicole O. prayer for her family as her mom is now in hospice
Jacob and Danielle S. praise, expecting in January

Friends of PPC

Gregg M. Don M. brother –prayer for intestinal issues to be resolved, currently hospitalized
David D. Cindy C. son, prayer for continued good results from chemotherapy, and for strength as he prepares for surgery in the future
Jon and Jamie D. Jim and Tina S. daughter - praise, expecting in October
Dan and Katie E. Terry and Cindy C. daughter – praise, expecting in November
Derek and Rachel H. praise, expecting in September
Matteo Todd H. & Mary Beth P. six-year-old grandson, prayer for successful chemotherapy treatment with little side effects
David and Heather S. Ed and Sally P. daughter - praise, expecting in October

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 (Elders)</i>
<i>Church Librarian.....</i>	<i>Robin Ferguson</i>
<i>Church Life Team.....</i>	<i>Gerry Timberlake/Denny Stewart</i>
<i>Communion</i>	<i>Scott Ferguson</i>
<i>Facilities.....</i>	<i>Dave Douglas (Deacon)</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 & Assimilation.....</i>	<i>Paul Deffenbaugh</i>
<i>Kids Bible College.....</i>	<i>Dean Falavolito</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>Denny Baker/Don Maurer/Bob Alouise</i>
<i>Music Ministry.....</i>	<i>Frank Moser</i>
<i>Newsletter.....</i>	<i>Pat Griffin</i>
<i>Outreach.....</i>	<i>Dan DeFazio</i>
<i>Pioneer Clubs.....</i>	<i>Jan Eisenbach</i>
<i>Prayer Chain.....</i>	<i>Jan Timberlake</i>
<i>Prison Ministry.....</i>	<i>Jim Stuart</i>
<i>Security Committee</i>	<i>Denny Stewart</i>
<i>Sermon Library</i>	<i>Keith Sellman</i>
<i>Sound System</i>	<i>Scott Ferguson</i>
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>Trey Jackson</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>Jessica Johnson</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Caleb Jakiel</i>
<i>Ushering</i>	<i>Tim Martin</i>
<i>VBS.....</i>	<i>Kierstan Grondziowski</i>
<i>Website.....</i>	<i>Dan Martin and Scott Ferguson</i>
<i>Wedding Coordinator.....</i>	<i>Kierstan Grondziowski</i>
<i>Women's Ministry.....</i>	<i>Lisa Boelcke</i>

KEEPING GOD'S WORSHIP PURE

*And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,
Acts 8:18NKJV*

This week we look at the final part of Question 109 of the *Larger Catechism*, which asks, "What are the sins forbidden in the Second Commandment?" The last section of the answer reads, "The sins forbidden in the Second Commandment are... simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed." Last week we considered the sin of superstition. Today we look at various ways in which the pure worship of God is corrupted and opposed.

In the verse above, Simon the Sorcerer, or Simon Magus as he is sometimes known, tried to buy the office of apostle so that he could wield the power of the Holy Spirit. For this outrageous proposition he was sternly rebuked by Simon Peter. Much later in the Middle Ages, church bishoprics throughout Europe were often sold to the highest bidder. The winner would then be the bishop of that region, giving him not only ecclesiastical but political power and authority, including the right of taxation. Often a single wealthy prince or knight would be the "bishop" of several regions, greatly increasing his power, wealth, and importance. However, as the Protestant Reformers loudly complained, such "bishops" never preached, never baptized, never heard confessions or said mass, in other words they were not really bishops at all. Some of them would rarely, if ever, even visit the regions over which they had been appointed.

Church historians refer to these unsavory practices as the sin of "simony," which is defined as the buying and selling church office; "pluralism," which is having multiple offices at the same time; and "absenteeism," neglecting the duties of an office through absence. The *Catechism* rightly includes these sins under the prohibitions of the Second Commandment. For each one of them is an idolatrous corruption of God's spiritual worship, where the administration of God's worship becomes a means of gaining or increasing carnal wealth and power. With the separation of church and state that we know today, such sinful practices have largely gone. However, using the worship of God as a means of gaining money and power is just as prevalent today, as any trip to the Christian bookstore will quickly confirm. Moreover, anyone who goes to church or who participates in Christian ministry chiefly for some earthly gain is guilty of the sin of simony.

Sacrilege is when we treat God or the things of God with contempt or irreverence. It comes from two words meaning sacred and stealing. To be sacrilegious is to steal from

the sacred things of God. God must have the chief place in my heart, the highest honor and greatest importance. He deserves all the glory, reverence, and awe that I can muster. Therefore, to think about or to act towards God irreverently is to rob Him of what He properly deserves. All flippant or frivolous portrayals of God, even where they are done by believers with a good intent, are sacrilegious. God is holy. He must always be treated as holy.

The rest of the *Catechism*, dealing with the neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances commanded by God, describes broad categories of sin we must continually guard against. It seems to me that our nation has become more and more guilty of this sin as Sunday becomes more and more just another work day or shopping day. When employers require their employees to work on Sunday they hinder and oppose the worship of God, who commands us to come together on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day. Likewise, when I consider Sunday as a day to get my chores done rather than the day I should set aside for the worship of God, I treat God's ordinance for worship with contempt. For at least a generation we have been sowing this disrespect and irreverence for God, and we are now beginning to reap in earnest a corresponding disrespect and irreverence for people at every level of society. May God grant that we would hallow His name and reverence His worship, and may He be pleased to heal our land!

Pastor Heiple

Reformed doctrine. Reverent worship. Real life.

In keeping with the Great Commission, Providence strives to be a transformed Christian community, centered in the worship of God and bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. As Christ's disciples, we endeavor to build vibrant lives, strong families, and a fellowship in which members care for and love one another and together seek the well-being of our city, state, and world. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to develop a vital preaching and teaching ministry aimed at drawing men and women to Christ; healing, comforting and nurturing them in the faith; equipping them for service, and deploying them effectively into all walks of life.



providencpgh.org