



Providence

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sabbath Rest

December 4, 2022

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Sabbath Rest

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

Blessed Be the Name

Sanctuary Choir

*All praise to Him Who reigns above in majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die, that He might man redeem.
His name shall be the Counsellor, the Mighty Prince of Peace,
of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror, Whose reign shall never cease.
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord.*

William H. Clark, 1887; *Blessed Be the Name*, USA Campmeeting melody, arr. Ralph E. Hudson, 1888.
The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration. © Copyright 1986 Word Music (a div. of Word, Inc.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All: *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Psalm 23

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley (vss.1,4), 1744; Mark E. Hunt (vss.2,3), 1978

Trinity 196

HYFRYDOL: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

SCRIPTURE READING

Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."

For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Hebrews 3:8-4:11

Gloria Patri

2nd cent.; tr.

Trinity 735

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX); Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther. and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men."

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. by Jay Rouse

Sanctuary Choir

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret Bright amid the cold of winter, when halfspent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior when halfspent was the night*

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, He is alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are, that have been and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore*

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Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Johannes Olearius, 1671

Trinity 197

THIRSTING: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON

Genesis 1:26-2:3^{NKJV}

Why Did God Rest?

Dr. Ray E. Heiple, Jr.

- 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- 29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.
- 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.
- 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
- 1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.
- 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
- 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Notes

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

A Communion Hymn for Christmas

Margaret Clarkson

GREENRIDGE: Tom Fettke

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

PASSING THE BREAD

SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; Mod.

Trinity 392

MENDEBRAS: Traditional German melody. Ar. Lowell Mason, 1839

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley (vss.1,4), 1744; Mark E. Hunt (vss.2,3), 1978

Trinity 196

HYFRYDOL: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Johannes Olearius, 1671

Trinity 197

THIRSTING: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load,
all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all

that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

A Communion Hymn for Christmas

Margaret Clarkson

GREENRIDGE: Tom Fettke

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1. Gath-ered round Your ta - ble on this ho - ly eve,
2. Prince of Glo - ry, gra - cing Heav'n ere time be - gan,
3. Beth-lehem's In - car - na - tion, Cal - vary's bit - ter cross,
4. With pro - found - est won - der we Your bo - dy take -
5. Christ-mas Babe so ten - der, Lamb who bore our blame,

View - ing Beth - lehem's sta - ble we re - joice and grieve;
Now for us em - brac - ing death as Son of Man;
Wrought for us sal - va - tion by Your pain and loss;
Laid in man - ger yon - der, bro - ken for our sake;
How shall sin - ners ren - der prais - es due Your name?

Joy to see You ly - ing in Your man - ger bed,
By Your birth so low - ly, by Your love so true,
Now we fall be - fore You in this ho - ly place,
Hushed in ad - o - ra - tion we ap - proach the cup -
Do Your own good plea - sure in the lives we bring;

Weep to see You dy - ing in our sin - ful stead.
By Your cross most ho - ly, Lord, we wor - ship You!
Pros - trate we a - dore You, for Your gift of grace.
Beth-lehem's pure ob - la - tion free - ly of - fered up.
In Your ran - somed trea - sure reign for - ev - er King! A - men.

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; Mod.

Trinity 392

MENDEBRAS: Traditional German melody. Ar. Lowell Mason, 1839

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in the soprano register, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass register. The lyrics are arranged in five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. O day of rest and glad-ness, O day of joy and light,
2. On you, at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3. You are a port pro - tect - ed from storms that round us rise,
4. To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
5. New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

O balm of care and sad-ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright,
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
• a gar - den in - ter - sect - ed with streams of par - a - dise;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you our Lord, vic - to - rious, the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
• you are a cool - ing foun - tain in life's dry, drea - ry sand;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams,
To Ho - ly Ghost be prais - es, to Fa - ther, and to Son;

sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was giv'n.
• from you, like Pis - gah's moun - tain, we view our prom - ised land.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
the church her voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Deacon of the Month: Tim Martin

Gate Keeper: Lou McCarrell

Counters: Trey Jackson and Brannoc Jackson

Greeters: Paul Dion and Pat Martin

Live Stream Operators:

Robin Heiple – Morning Worship Service

Robin Heiple – Messiah Concert

Adult Sunday School

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Dr. Ray E. Heiple, Jr.
Fellowship Hall

Highlights from the Gospel of John

Elder Paul Deffenbaugh and Elder Don Maurer
Room 409

Schedule for Childcare This Sunday, December 4

Sunday School Nursery	Trevor and Lindsay Hough	9:15 a.m.
Infant Nursery	Dave and Bethany Douglas	10:30 a.m.
Toddler Nursery	Levi and Jen Hull	10:30 a.m.
Children's Church	Cody and Dori McBee	10:30 a.m.
Messiah Concert	Nathan and Judith Dinsmore	7:00 p.m.

Schedule for Childcare Next Sunday, December 11

Sunday School Nursery	Eric and Samantha Berkenpas	9:15 a.m.
Infant Nursery	Caleb and Victoria Jakiel	10:30 a.m.
Toddler Nursery	Joe and Bethany Zygorzinski	10:30 a.m.
Children's Church	Justin and Chrissy Shaffer	10:30 a.m.
Kids' Bible College	TBA	11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 4

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 with Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Messiah Concert	7:00 p.m.
Tues.	Women's AM Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
	Pickleball	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	Financial Planning Class	7:00 p.m.
	Pioneer Clubs	7:00 p.m.
	Trail Life	7:00 p.m.
	Youth Group	7:00 p.m.
Thurs.	Session	7:00 p.m.
	Women's PM Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:15 a.m.

DECEMBER 11

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.
Mon.	Deacon Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tues.	Pickleball	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	Financial Planning Class	7:00 p.m.
	Pioneer Clubs	7:00 p.m.
	Trail Life	7:00 p.m.
	Youth Group	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:15 a.m.

Financial Update Through November

2022 Actual Giving	\$756,000
Previous Year Giving	\$675,000
2022 Budget	\$673,000
2022 Total Expenses	\$678,000
Actual Operational Expenses	\$603,000
Actual Capital Expenses	\$75,000
Williams Fund	\$32,000
Garrett Fund	\$23,000
Adoption Fund	\$4,000

G. F. Handel's MESSIAH This Evening at 7:00 P.M.

Our Sanctuary Choir plus other members of Providence and friends will present our annual offering of the Christmas portion of Handel's magnificent oratorio. We regard this as a special privilege to be able to gather together, along with ten instrumentalists, to lift this up to our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Spread the word; bring your friends and neighbors. There will be refreshments following the concert.

Christmas Card Exchange

Back by popular demand the Providence Presbyterian Church Christmas Card Exchange begins today. Save \$\$ on those stamps and share the Christmas cheer; simply put your Christmas cards to regularly attending PPC folks in the mailboxes in the foyer. THEN, while you are there, take a peek to see if there are any cards for you! The exchange boxes will be available for your use throughout the month of December. Don't forget to stop by each week to see if there are any cards for you and your family.

Women's Fall Bible Study

Last study of the fall term! On December 6th and 8th we will be ending our season with a White Elephant gift exchange! Additional details have been sent via email. Questions can be directed to Teresa or Mary Jo or emailed to ppcwomensministry@gmail.com.

Provisionally Speaking

The December edition of *Provisionally Speaker* is available on the information table in the foyer.

Greeter Volunteers

The 2023 greeter schedule is being made. If you would like to be a greeter in 2023, please contact Patty Martin, as soon as possible, in person or by email. Her email address is patriciam325@yahoo.com. Patty will be happy to answer any questions you have about the ministry.

Providence Presbyterian Church

Pictorial Family Directory Update

Exciting news! The final phase of our new pictorial directory is nearing completion. Tuesday December 6, 2022 is the deadline for submitting any and all updates to your contact information for our new church directory. Please send all changes (name, address, telephone number, or email address) to our church secretary Karen at secretary@providencepgh.org or call her at 412-788-6100. Thank you.

Christ the King Church

Thank you for joining us for the sermon and presentation by Almir Pehlic'. If you are interested in contributing to this mission please make your checks payable to Providence Presbyterian Church, and in the memo, write Christ the King Church. See Denny Baker with any questions.

Winter Sunday School Quarter – Adult Classes

Our Winter Sunday School Quarter will begins today! Below are the adult classes being offered:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, with Dr. Ray Heiple – Fellowship Hall

While in exile on the Isle of Patmos, the apostle John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, declares that he was given a revelation from God, which he was commanded to write down. That book called "Revelation" ends the New Testament canon, and with it God's Word to man in the Holy Scriptures are completed. Revelation (not "Revelations") is sometimes called the Revelation of John, or the Apocalypse, the latter of which is a transliteration of the Greek word that means "unveiling." Therefore, this book was not given to obscure but to reveal the plan of God for the salvation of His church. However, the interpretation of the book is easily the most disputed of both Testaments, even among Bible-believing Christians. Yet in simple faith, and by means of the ordinary rules of interpretation we can be confident of much of what God is saying to us in this book. Come and take this journey with me through this exciting and awe-inspiring book, and May our good and sovereign Lord indeed bless "he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy" (Rev. 1:3).

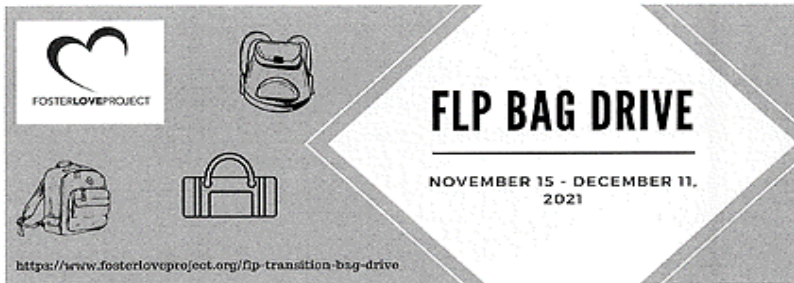
Highlights from the Gospel of John, with Paul Deffenbaugh & Don Maurer – Room 409

Please join Ruling Elders Paul Deffenbaugh and Don Maurer as we embark on an exciting new Sunday School class entitled "Highlights from the Gospel of John."

Foster Love Project 2022 Placement Bag Drive

Each year, more than 15,000 kids are served through the foster care system in Pennsylvania alone. Many of these kids are taken to a foster home with no belongings or a few items thrown into a trash bag. Foster Love Project provides a bag of goods to be given to kids at time of transition. We believe in giving them a good quality bag with new belongings to support that neither they nor their belongings are disposable. Join the Foster Love Project Bag Drive and pack a bag of new belongings for a child in transition during this holiday season. Please find more information at <https://www.fosterloveproject.org/flp-annual-bag-drive.html>.

This year, our goal is to complete 10 bags: 2 infant, 2 toddler, 2 kid, 2 teen girl, and 2 teen boy bags. Please sign up in the foyer for the bag category you'd like to provide. If they're all full, extras are of course always welcome! Please see the flyer for required bag contents and follow the directions provided on the website. Completed bags can be dropped off in the foyer until Sunday, December 4th or at the FLP Center in Pittsburgh until December 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Bethany Douglas at bmdouglas3@gmail.com. follow the directions provided on the website. Completed bags can be dropped off in the foyer until Sunday, December 4th or at the FLP Center in Pittsburgh until December 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Bethany Douglas at bmdouglas3@gmail.com.



Baby Bag **0-23 Months**

- Zipped diaper Bag
- 1 Pack of onesies
- Footed Pajamas
- Socks
- A Small Blanket
- Stuffed animal
- Baby board book
- Baby soap (In Ziploc bag)
- Washcloths

Kids Bag **Ages 2-12**

- Duffel bag or large backpack
- One T-shirt
- One Sweatpants/leggings
- Socks
- A Small Blanket
- A book
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Bath puff
- Body wash (In a Ziploc bag)

Teen Bag **Ages 13-18**

- Duffel bag or large backpack
- One T-shirt
- One Sweatpants/leggings (adult size S, M, L, or XL)
- Socks
- A comfy blanket
- Book or Journal
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Bath puff
- Body wash (In a Ziploc bag)
- Deoderant

Jeff and Jamie G. and Family

As we prepare to go back to S. Asia, we are looking for some “yokefellow” to partner with us in ministry. We currently need about \$1000 per month to be at 100% support. Would you consider partnering with us financially to help close this gap? We are willing to sacrifice/ take risk of cross- cultural missions. Will you sacrifice and help by partnering with us? We would be blessed and encouraged to be yoked with you in this work!

Here are just a few ways we could meet our goal:

1 supporter @\$300 per month, 1 @\$200 per month, 5 @\$100 per month could help us close the gap or 1@ \$300 per month, 1@\$200 per month, 2 @100 per month, 2 @\$75 per month, 3 @\$50 per month

Would you prayerfully consider if God is wanting you to partner with us? We would be grateful for your partnership at any amount.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeff and Jamie G.

You can give and register a recurrent gift (monthly pledge) by going to <https://www.mtw.org/>

Click on Give, On the drop down click on Missionary, Click on Give to an Unlisted Missionary (this is because we serve in a country that for security reasons, we have to be careful), type in pledge or gift amount., Jeffrey and Jamie G., account #12746, at the check-out scroll down and click on Make this a recurring gift to register your pledge.

Would you also please let us know your intention to partner with us so we can keep a record of our pledges.

UPDATE

Dear Friends and Partners,

We just wanted to give you a brief update and ask for your prayers. First, Jeff got a good report and had a clear scan at the end of October. Praise God! We are thankful and relieved.

We finally got all the info needed and filed our application for Jeff’s visa (long sigh... this is always such a process). Tomorrow morning, we will put all the paperwork in the prepaid courier envelope and send it off. PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR THE LORD TO GRANT US THIS NEW VISA. We know that our Father orders all our steps and is over all things.

Thanks for your prayers!

Jeff and Jamie, and family

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@providencepgh.org if you have any additions, deletions, or updates to the **Bulletin Prayer Reminder**.

Members of PPC

Betty Jane D. ***prayer for successful hernia repair surgery on Dec. 9***
Phil and Katie B. praise, expecting in December
Justin and Brittany B. praise, expecting in June
Dave D. prayer for successful treatment for carcinoma
John and Annie H. praise, expecting in April
Trevor and Lindsay H. praise, expecting in May
Tim and Caity M. praise, expecting in May
Cody and Dori M. praise, expecting in January
David and Rachel M. praise, expecting in June
Katherine P. prayer for relief from chronic disabilities
Jacob and Danielle S. praise, expecting in January
Joel and Leah S. praise, expecting in April
Ryan and Breanna V. praise, expecting in February

Friends of PPC

David B. Cindy C. son – prayer for radiation treatments to be successful before future surgery
Matteo Todd H. & Mary Beth P. six-year-old grandson, prayer for successful radiation treatments and stronger chemotherapy treatments

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>
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WE MUST SINCERELY HONOR GOD'S NAME!

*"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips,
but their heart is far from Me."*

Matthew 15:8NKJV

Today we conclude our examination of Question 113 of the *Larger Catechism*, which asks, "What are the sins forbidden in the Third Commandment?" The final part of the answer states, "The sins forbidden in the Third Commandment are... making profession of religion in hypocrisy, or for sinister ends; being ashamed of it, or a shame to it, by unconformable, unwise, unfruitful, and offensive walking, or backsliding from it." Last time we looked at the broad scope of the Third Commandment. This week we consider the sin of hypocrisy.

Nobody likes to be patronized. Even though sometimes the truth hurts, relationships work better for us when they are conducted with honesty. Whenever we pretend to be something we are not, we use others to further some hidden agenda of our own. Such activity is selfish and disrespectful to people, who we think we can fool on account of their not being able to see our hearts. Thus, hypocrisy by definition, assumes the ignorance of those it seeks to fool. To play the hypocrite before men is rude and arrogant, but to do so before God is the height of folly. For consider: we can keep our real intentions hidden from men but God always sees and knows the true state of our hearts, even better than we do. Therefore, to playact before God by making a profession of faith in hypocrisy or for sinister ends is a great sin. No wonder Jesus says of the hypocritical church, Laodicea, that He would rather they be cold towards Him than lukewarm. The one who is cold towards God at least does not give Him the additional insult of ascribing the attribute of ignorance to Him.

Though no one this side of the Fall is perfectly sincere, yet surely the truly converted person cannot ultimately be a hypocrite before God. Many if not most Christians will admit to struggling with the sin of being ashamed of God. Truly there are times when, for the acceptance or approval of others, I do not want people to know that I am a servant of Jesus Christ. What an awful thing: to be ashamed of the one who bore all shame for us; to be embarrassed over the one who willingly was publicly stripped naked for us; to not want to be associated with the one who forsook the glories of heaven to dwell with us and become one with us. May God give us the eyes to see through the tawdry honors of rebellious man that we would never desire to forsake our true inheritance for all the riches of this sinful world. Surely the greatest shame with Christ is far better than the greatest glory without Him!

Perhaps this final category of sin is the most common of all among true believers. No Christian is given to the sin of hypocrisy, and when we do occasionally become ashamed of Christ we eventually repent, yet how often are WE a shame to Christ? How often do we walk contrary to the commandments and therefore the will of God? How often do we act unwisely, bearing little or no fruit and being satisfied with it? How often do we carelessly offend our brothers and sisters in Christ, and therefore, Christ Himself who identifies with them? And even when we are quickened by God in some spurt of real spiritual growth or true religious affections, how quickly and how easily do we backslide into the most vile and abominable transgressions? Christ has placed His name upon us, He has engraved our names in His hands, and yet we continue to dishonor His great and glorious name in a myriad of ways every single day of our lives.

It is good for us to feel the weight of our sins and to rend our hearts before God in true repentance. This is a spiritual discipline we should seek every day in our prayers as we acknowledge our sins before our perfect God. For such confession should drive us ever more to depend upon and hope in the one who has made His name great, not for Himself, but for us. Beloved, let us strive to remember that though we break this commandment so readily, yet we have a Savior who fully and perfectly honored God's name. And it is in His perfect obedience that God considers us righteous before Him. May God grant that even our sins drive us to glorify the name of the One who perfectly honored the name of God!

Pastor Heiple

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