

July 31, 2022

Therefore, my brothers
dearly beloved and
longed for, my joy and
crown, so stand fast in the
Lord, my dearly beloved.

—Philippians 4:1

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Caring Christian Fellowship Reaching Out in Response to God's Love

The Church Gathers in God's Name

Welcome.
We are glad
you have chosen
to gather and
worship!
Go to
www.provpres.org
to join us for a live
broadcast starting
at 11:00 am.

Words of Welcome

Invocation

Tolling of the Bell - Rung three times to symbolize our Triune God

Introit

Praise His Holy Name!

Keith Hampton

Prelude

Arioso
(Handbell quartet)

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

God, we bring to you our gift of praise in gratitude for all your many blessings for us.

We offer our lives in service to you.

Help us to continually serve and praise you.

Guide our steps, place joy and song in our hearts as we celebrate your love.

Opening Hymn 463

How Firm a Foundation

American folk hymn

The Affirmation of
Faith helps us
express the faith
and hope we have
as people of God.

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

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. Amen.

We confess our sins as the people of God together, out loud, and to others because of the incredible power there is in putting our failures and faults in the light of God's love.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we live in a world that focuses on gathering things. We collect, store, and gather items, gadgets, and even people. We focus our energies on our collections, providing adequate room for them, and yet we bar the door to the needs of others, of those who have little or nothing, of those for whom life has been a constant struggle. We are sorry for the ways in which we have failed you. Forgive us. Turn us around to look at the ways in which our wealth, both of substance and spirit, can be used for healing and hope. Enable us to be in ministry to those in need and to care for the world. This we pray in the name of the One who died to set us free...

Silent Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Anthem

Order My Steps

Glenn Burleigh
arr. Jack Schrader

Children's Anthem

God is Here with Me

Christopher Hogan

Time with Young Disciples

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:1

Sermon

Stand Firm

We Give Thanks to God

A time to offer prayer for others and ourselves to God.

Pastoral Prayer and 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

Litany of Farewell

Rev. Liza Hendricks
General Presbyter, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Dear Christian friends, in the book of Ecclesiastes the Preacher writes: "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to seek, and a time to lose...."

Jeff and Susan are leaving us to follow another chapter in their life. Today, therefore, we mark the ending of their ministry here at Providence; a time to look back, and a time to look forward; a time for joy, and a time for sadness. And also a time to give thanks and praise Almighty God for what they have given us in our lives together.

Blessed be God.

And blessed be his holy name.

The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time.

Whatever God does endures forever.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

And forget not all his benefits.

Bless the Lord, all you hosts:

You ministers who do God's will.

Bless the Lord, in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

For everything there is a season; a time to go, and a time to come. Yet the Spirit blows where it will. And for those who are led by the Spirit, they must follow. God has blessed Providence with 22 years of service by Jeff and Susan. Jeff has been our Pastor, our co-worker in Christ, our counselor, our teacher, our friend. With joy and sadness, we mark and celebrate the ending of his ministry with us.

Jeff, we called you to be our pastor, to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members, to announce God's forgiveness to us, to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper, and to comfort us with the Gospel in times of sickness, trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. You have provided leadership and guidance for us in the spirit of Christ. You have challenged us with the Gospel mission in your work. You have helped us to mark our direction and encouraged us on our way. Together we have served the Lord and his Church in common devotion to the Gospel. Sharing in our joys and sorrows, you have been important to us in our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Friends, you called me to serve in this place, and now God has seen fit to lead me to another stage in my life and service. I praise God for the time we've shared together. I've known your love and your patience. You have ministered to me as I have ministered to you. You have been my teacher as I have been yours. You have forgiven me as I have forgiven you. Together we have walked in the light of Christ and grown together in the Gospel. Our lives have been intertwined by the Holy Spirit, and I shall not soon forget you.

In thanksgiving, let us pray for Jeff and Susan and for our life together. **Eternal God: We thank you for Jeff and Susan and for our life together in this congregation and community. You have led them by the Holy Spirit to serve us in this place, to build up your Church, and to glorify your name. We have worked together for the sake of the Gospel. Together we have studied your Word, broken bread and given thanks. We praise you for the rich years we've been together. Grant that we all may continue to serve you in the Church on earth, and be reunited together to rejoice in your kingdom forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Scripture tells us that endings are only new beginnings. Therefore, let us go forth, doing God's will in our respective places, for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

Go now, and continue to do God's will. As you have been a blessing to us, go to be a blessing to others.

As you have been a blessing to me, so also may you be a blessing to others.

Witness faithfully in word and deed to the love and salvation that is known to us.

Strive for righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness among yourselves.

Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church.

Give and receive comfort as you serve within the world.

May God, the Father, bless you in your ministry in retirement .

May God, the Father, bless you in your ministry in this place.

May God, the Son, be ever with you and guide you.

May God, the Son, be ever with you and guide you.

May God, the Holy Spirit, equip you with everything good to do God's will.

May God, the Holy Spirit, equip you with everything good to do God's will.

And may you always know God's peace.

Amen!

Amen!

We Go in Christ's Name to Serve

Closing Song

Shalom, My Good Friends Hebrew blessing set to an Israeli melody
*Shalom, my good friends; shalom, my good friends.
Shalom! Shalom!
Till we meet again, till we meet again,
Shalom! Shalom!*

Benediction

Choral Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

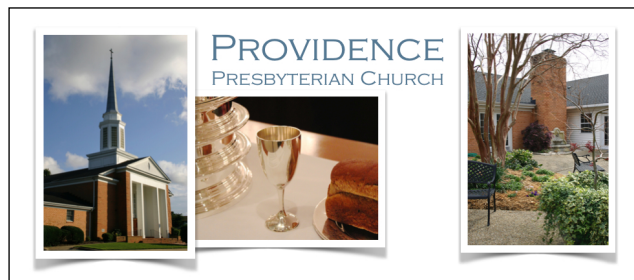
Pater Lutkin

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord lift his countenance upon you,
and give you peace;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you. Amen.*

Have a blessed week!

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jeff Bell
Director of Music, Valetta Fellenbaum
Organist, John Dixon
Administrative Assistant, Kristen Ferragut

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