

# The Worship of God

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Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Eleven O' Clock in the Morning

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## GATHERING

### VOLUNTARY

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

arr. Linda R. Lamb

### CENTERING PRAYER

Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAISE

### VOLUNTARY

Lord of the Dance

arr. Joel Raney

### CALL TO WORSHIP

This Is the Feast

Andrew Pester

### † PROCESSIONAL HYMN, NO. 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE

*Please let us know you are worshipping with us today. If you are in-person, write your name in the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle and pass it to your neighbor. First-time guests are encouraged to list your address, phone number or e-mail so that we may share additional information about our church. If you are with us on-line, email [connect@providenceumc.org](mailto:connect@providenceumc.org) or text to 704.476.1938 and type in the word CONNECT. We are glad you are with us!*

## PRAYERS

### CALL TO PRAYER

The Eyes of All

Andrew Pester

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us now confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Leader to people:*  
Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
That proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*People to leader:*  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

*All:*  
**Glory to God. Amen.**

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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## THE WORD

EPISTLE LESSON, NEW TESTAMENT PAGE 292  
I John 4. 7-21

† GOSPEL LESSON, NEW TESTAMENT PAGE 133  
John 15. 1-8

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing  
With a voice of singing declare ye, and tell this;  
utter it even to the end of the earth. Hallelujah!  
The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.  
Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands.  
Sing forth the honor of his Name;  
make his praise glorious.  
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.

Kenneth Jennings

—Isaiah 48. 20b; Psalm 66. 1-2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Abiding Love

## RESPONSE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Mandatum*  
I give you a new commandment  
that you love one another.  
Just as I have loved you,  
you also should love one another.  
By this, everyone will know  
that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another.

Robert Buckley Farlee

—John 13. 34-35

† DOXOLOGY, NO. 94

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† HYMN AT THE GRADUAL, NO. 605

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

## BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

*The Baptismal Covenant begins on Hymnal Page 33.*

INVITATION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

QUESTIONS OF PARENTS AND MENTORS

† QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION, PAGE 35

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, PAGE 35

† GLORIA PATRI, NO. 71  
Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER, PAGE 37

LAYING ON OF HANDS

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME, PAGE 38

## SENDING FORTH

† HYMN AT THE PARTING PROCESSION, NO. 664  
Sent Forth by God's Blessing

THE ASH GROVE

† BENEDICTION

† CHORAL RESPONSE  
Amen

Peter Lutkin

† SILENT PRAYER

† CHIMING THE TRINITY

† VOLUNTARY  
Introduction and Chaconne

Dietrich Buxtehude

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† Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Our service of worship has ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.**

As we leave this Sanctuary,  
let us greet one another in Christ's name.

## LEADING IN WORSHIP

<b>Crucifer</b>	Emilia Sbarra
<b>Acolytes</b>	Aidan Honeycutt, Georgia Kelley
<b>Preacher</b>	Randy Harry
<b>Liturgists</b>	Olivia Tobin, Teresa Dunn
<b>Organists</b>	John Richardson, Adam Ward
<b>Pianist</b>	Teresa Robertson
<b>Director of Choirs</b>	Adam Ward
<b>Choirs</b>	Chancel, Asbury Ringers
<b>Audio Visual</b>	Doug Matre, Kenneth Matre
<b>Ushers</b>	Dennis Guthrie, Joe Fitzgerald, Bob Branan, Paul Bumgarner, Al Dickens, Ben House, Keith Sink

**Congregational Care** Notify the church of an address/email change, illness, hospitalization, death, or a prayer request: please contact Bill Jeffries, [bjeffries@providenceumc.org](mailto:bjeffries@providenceumc.org).



**Our Stephen Ministers** are ready to provide you support when needed, for as long as needed. Connect with a Stephen Minister: contact Susan Wollin, 704.779.6209, or Jim Wollin, 704.724.7942. All calls are confidential.

*Each Sunday we highlight Christian symbols (sometimes visible in our Sanctuary, sometimes meaningful to the season) to deepen our understanding and enhance the worship experience for everyone, young and old.*

There are two sets of **three steps in the Chancel** in our chancel which represent faith (top step), hope (middle step), and love (bottom step). (I Corinthians 13. 13) Notice that the cross on the altar (called the Calvary or Graded Cross) has the same three steps. The three steps may also be seen as a Trinitarian reference, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## PARISH NOTES

**Welcome!** We are glad you are joining us today; your presence is important! We hope you find Providence a place where you may connect with God and others. Please visit [www.providencumc.org](http://www.providencumc.org) to learn more about Providence UMC and its many missions and ministries for all ages. You may also contact Brandon Dirks, 704.714.9378, [bdirks@providencumc.org](mailto:bdirks@providencumc.org).

**The altar flowers are given to the glory of God** in memory of Barbara Sorrells on her 103rd birthday, May 4, by her children Bart and Judith Sorrells and Ed and Susan Cooper and grandsons; and by Jody and Beth Carpenter in honor of our children, Carey, Laura, Emily and Mary Jordan, and our grandchildren, Hannah, Judson, Eloise and Joseph.

**The Providence UMW will have a General Meeting**, Tuesday, May 7, at 10:30 am in the Chapel. The Reverend Dr. Randy Harry will deliver a "Status Report on the 2024 United Methodist Church General Conference." We'll hear about potential changes to the *Book of Discipline* plus other decisions made by our General Conference. Following the meeting, lunch will be served to those with a reservation.


**Traditional Worship Acolyte Training** (2024-2025 for rising eighth through twelfth graders) Two training sessions will be offered this summer: July 23 – 25, 1:00 - 3:00 pm and July 30 – August 1, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Each acolyte-trainee should sign up for one three-day session (you must attend all three days). Please register by Sunday, June 30: use the link at [www.providencumc.org/upcoming](http://www.providencumc.org/upcoming) or contact the Music Ministry office, 704.366.7442, or [lhelveston@providencumc.org](mailto:lhelveston@providencumc.org).

**Register now for Adult Church Softball** (adults 16 years and up). Games (Mondays/Fridays) begin June 3. For details: [www.providencumc.org/upcoming](http://www.providencumc.org/upcoming) or via the link in *Providence This Week*.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** is planned for July 23 - 25. Registration will be begin in May. For more details, contact Rhonda Hermann [rhonda@providencumc.org](mailto:rhonda@providencumc.org).

**Youth Ministry** events: Mission Mondays, begins June 17, 9:00 am-noon; the Middle School Mission Trip, June 16 – 21; the High School Mission Trip, June 23 – 28; and the Garden City Beach Retreat, July 14 – 19. For more details, please contact Olivia Tobin, [otobin@providencumc.org](mailto:otobin@providencumc.org). The last UMYF of the school year is tonight. UMYF will resume in September.

**The Attic Sale for Missions** is planned for August 23 – 24. Monies raised will benefit local and global missions of Providence UMC. More details and information on ways to help will be coming soon. Donations may be brought to the church August 8 – 19.

 **Thank you for the generous gifts** that help fund the missions and ministries of Providence United Methodist Church. Financial ways to give: during today's collection of tithes and offerings, bill-pay, mail, our website, text. Please review our Giving Page, [www.providencumc.org/give](http://www.providencumc.org/give). For more detailed information, review our Giving Page at [www.providencumc.org/give](http://www.providencumc.org/give) or contact Carlos Canarte, [ccanarte@providencumc.org](mailto:ccanarte@providencumc.org).

## CONFIRMATION 2024

**Today we celebrate** as these young persons join our church! Through baptism or confirmation, these young people make their personal profession of faith, and we call on the Holy Spirit to make firm their baptismal vows. As a response to the Holy Spirit's presence and a desire to connect to the body of Christ, these young people will also take vows of church membership.

Emerson Margaret Blanton  
Grayson Sophia Dudley  
Grace Michelle Garber

Hannah Olivia Groves  
Kate Alexandra Hunley  
Daniel Craig Hunt

Luke Matthew Rublewski  
Henry Foley Sbarra  
Alexander Lee Smith

Thank you to the following persons who served as Confirmation mentors: Caroline Dudley, Stephanie Blanton, Claire Carbone, Mary Morgan Ashley, Shelli Volpp, Jennifer Sbarra, Charlie Hunt, Cannon Hunt, and Jaime Easley.

Many thanks to the Confirmation leaders: Suzi Stephens, Guy Varn, Chase Coale, and Laura Flowe.

### Our Mission

*To Be the Growing  
Body of Christ,  
Glorifying God and  
Serving Others*

### Our Ministers

*All of the People of Providence  
United Methodist Church*

### Our Ministry Staff

**The Reverend Dr.  
Randolph Harry**  
Senior Pastor

**The Reverend Dr.  
William Jeffries**  
Senior Associate Pastor  
of Congregational Care

**The Reverend  
Brandon Dirks**  
Minister of  
Missions & Outreach

**The Reverend Teresa Dunn**  
Minister of Discipleship  
& Adult Education

**The Reverend  
Rhonda Hermann**  
Minister to Children

**Olivia Tobin**  
Director of  
Youth Ministries

**Anna Smith**  
Director of Weekday School

**Adam Ward, DMA**  
Director of Music Ministries

**John Richardson**  
Organist  
& Music Associate

*For a full staff directory, visit  
[www.providencumc.org/staff](http://www.providencumc.org/staff).*

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*Loving God  
Worshipping Boldly  
Changing Lives*