



PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 27, 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

April 27, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

RE Peter Griffith, Sr.

Preparation for Worship

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105:1-5

- ¹Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
²Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
³Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
⁴Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
⁵Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 345

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Words: John Newton, 1779. Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797.

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He, Whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for His own abode
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.
2. See the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love.
Well supply Thy sons and daughters, and all fears of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age

3. Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near;
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.
4. Savior, if of Zion's city, I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Thy Name
Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show
Solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.

*** PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION**

Rev. John D. Bennett

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Book of Common Prayer (1552)

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against 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,
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore those who are repentant,
according to your promises declared to mankind, in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy name. – Amen.**

(Silent Confession)

*Congregation Standing ◦ **Bold body of text recited together.**
All hymns are for congregational singing. ◦ All music copied by permission of CCLI #2510011

Most Scripture References from: *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)*
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Minister: *For all who have confessed their sins and have fled to Christ for mercy, hear this word of assurance:*

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*** HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Words by George Matheson, 1882; Music by Christopher Miner

1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
2. O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

*** CHILDREN'S CATECHISM**

From: *First Catechism ~ Teaching Children Bible Truths*

Question 25: *In the covenant of life, what did God require Adam to do?*

Answer: **To obey God perfectly.**

Question 26: *What did God promise in the covenant of life?*

Answer: **To reward Adam with life if he obeyed God perfectly.**

Question 27: *What did God threaten in the covenant of life?*

Answer: **To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed God.**

Minister: *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

RESPONDING TO THE LORD WITH HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM TO ABIGAIL LICHTÉ

As applicants for admission into the Church of God by Baptism, which is a sign and seal of our engrafting into Christ, and of our engagement to be the Lord's, the Session has examined and approved Abigail (Abby) Lichte, who is cordially welcomed into the fellowship of the household of faith (BCO 57-5).

BAPTISMAL HYMN

Father, Long Before Creation

Words: Chinese hymn (trans. Francis P. Jones), 1952. Music: Andrew Osenga. ©2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings.

1. Father, long before creation Thou hadst chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us firmly fixed in Christ alone.
2. Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children must forever praise His name.
3. God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us that His only Son He gave.
4. Loving Father, now before Thee, we will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb;
Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb.

**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.**

Interlude

SERMON

Rev. John D. Bennett

Mark 4:21-34

²¹And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²²For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." ²⁴And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

²⁶And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Minister: *The Word of the Lord!*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 715

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Words: Henry Alford, 1844, 1867. Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1859.

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Matt. 13:39

Capo III

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his har-vest home;
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home;

all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown;
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied:
 first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear:
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please see *Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence* on page 10 of the bulletin.

The Great Thanksgiving‡

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts!*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: *Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Minister: *It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sins of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:*

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord Most High!**

Minister: *Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:*

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Minister: *The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.*

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

‡*The Great Thanksgiving*, includes the *Sursum Corda* (Latin for "lift up your hearts," which dates back to the early 3rd century). The *Sursum Corda* calls us to be heavenly minded while we are summoned into the Lord's presence. Variations of this first phrase can be found in the liturgies of Augustine, Calvin, Knox, and Bucer. Being spiritually lifted into the throne room of Christ, we join the angels in worship, proclaiming "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8).

1. In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

*** DOXOLOGY***Old Hundredth - Hymn 731*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below:
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost - Amen.

*** BENEDICTION***Deuteronomy 1:11*

¹¹May the LORD, the God of your fathers,
make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you,
as he has promised you!

Sunday School

- ❖ Sunday School classes are available for all ages. Adult Sunday School classes include:

- **Study of Colossians and Philemon** (Room 10): Jeremy Dalton, Teacher
- **Westminster Confession of Faith** (Room 11): Ronnie Booth, Teacher
- **From Dust to Glory** (Room 9): Larry Lafreniere, Teacher

Today was the last Sunday School for the Spring. Adult Summer Sunday School will begin May 11 and run through July 27 in Room 11. (Classes will not be available for children.)

- **May 11 to June 8:** *Presuppositional Apologetics* taught by Daniel Hirmas
- **June 15 to July 27:** *Highlights of R.C. Sproul's Dust to Glory* taught by Larry Lafreniere

Events This Week

- ❖ **Women's Morning Bible Study** meets Monday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Child care is provided.
- ❖ **Morning Men's Group** meets Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ **Youth Large Group** meets this Wednesday from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.
- ❖ **Evening Women's Bible Study** meets this Wednesday from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Child care and supper are provided.
- ❖ **Sunday Community Groups** meet today.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Sunday, May 4, 9:30 a.m.:** High School Senior Breakfast. (Everyone is invited to attend.)
- ❖ **Farewell Cookout for the Sweatt family** will be May 14, at 5:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Vacation Bible School:** July 8-11.

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Texas Tech

- ❖ Davis Sweatt, davis.sweatt@ruf.org, is the campus minister. Raegan Watkins is the RUF intern.
 - Large Group meets Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

Providence Weekly

- ❖ To receive the weekly Providence email newsletter, subscribe by entering your email at the bottom of the Home page at the church's website (www.providencepca.org).

Meal Ministry

- ❖ **Shared Joy, Shared Pain, Shared Meal:** The women of Providence bring meals to people in the church as needed, such as births, deaths, hospitalizations, and illnesses. If you can provide meals or if you need a meal, contact Wendy Wilkerson, WendyInIdalou@gmail.com, or 806-831-544.
 - Meal requests are registered at: www.TakeThemAMeal.com.

Nursery

- ... **is available during worship for children 5 and under**, although babies and children are welcomed and valued in our service. However, in order to facilitate a restful and reverent worship for all who enter, parents are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources we have available for children who become noisy or fussy.

- (1) A cry room with a live stream of the service is set up in Room 1, across the hall from the nursery, located at the west side of the building.
- (2) Snacks and coloring pages are located along the back wall of the sanctuary.
- (3) Children's Bulletins are located on the back table of the sanctuary.

Feel free to ask an usher or congregant for help in locating any of these helpful resources.

Ushers

❖ *Serving today*

- Jason Mulkey ◦ Ryan Henry
Tom Nicholson ◦ Trace Hunt

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- Brian Nicholson ◦ Ronnie Booth
Tom Brooks ◦ Shane Shepherd

Nursery

❖ *Serving today*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Kristen Bredemeyer ◦ Libby Nicholson ◦ Allison Smith (Ava)
Sarah Scott ◦ Avery Augesen ◦ Paige Bredemeyer

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Amanda Castner ◦ Sara Booth ◦ Rose Mulkey
Elizabeth Stewart ◦ Cana and Selah Dalton ◦ Nan Mulkey

Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence

The Lord Jesus Christ is present with us by his Spirit at this table, so in His name we invite everyone who trusts Him for salvation and is a baptized member in a church which faithfully proclaims His gospel. However, we are warned not to partake if you do not trust Him or if you are living in unrepentant sin; instead, please let the bread and the cup pass by (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Rather, turn to Him in repentance and faith, so you may join in this glad and holy celebration of His saving death and resurrection life for all His people. Children who have made a public profession of faith and been received as members by the leadership of their church are also invited to the table. Children who have not yet made such a profession are asked to let the bread and the cup pass. We use wine in the Supper, but the outer ring of the tray is grape juice; we also hold the elements until everyone is served. Let us rejoice together in Him!

Prayers of Meditation for Those Not Participating in Communion

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and show me the reality of who You are. – *Amen*.

Prayer of Belief

Heavenly Father, I admit that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through Your Son Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You that He lived the life I should have lived, and paid the debt and punishment I deserved. Receive me now for His sake. I turn from my sins and receive Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. – *Amen*.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, help me to look to You as the fulfillment of all my needs, and to turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. – *Amen*.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow You in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people, and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. – *Amen*.

ESV Daily Bible Reading Plan for Week April 27 to May 3, 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Psalms/Wisdom</i>	<i>Pentateuch/History</i>	<i>Chronicles/Prophets</i>	<i>Gospels/Epistles</i>
04/27	Psalms 117	Leviticus 23	Isaiah 29:1 - 30:17	Ephesians 2
04/28	Psalms 118	Leviticus 24	Isaiah 30:18 - 32:20	Ephesians 3
04/29	Psalms 119:1-88	Leviticus 25	Isaiah 33-34	Ephesians 4:1-16
04/30	Psalms 119:89-176	Leviticus 26	Isaiah 35	Ephesians 4:17-32
05/01	Psalms 120	Leviticus 27	Isaiah 36-37	Ephesians 5:1-21
05/02	Psalms 121	Numbers 1	Isaiah 38	Ephesians 5:22 - 6:9
05/03	Psalms 122	Numbers 2	Isaiah 39	Ephesians 6:10-24

Sermon Notes

Providence Presbyterian Church (PCA)

3301 34th Street • Lubbock, Texas 79410 • 806-516-5745 • www.providencecpca.org

Purpose Statement

Providence Presbyterian Church aims to worship and serve the one true and living God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people in Lubbock, West Texas, and the world. In doing this we will encourage and equip believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to grow in our love for one another and our neighbors; all the while endeavoring to know, live, and speak the love, joy, peace, hope, and truth of God's word revealed to us in the Scriptures.

The Session

(elders@providencecpca.org)

John D. Bennett, *Teaching Elder*
Dr. Jeremy Dalton, *Ruling Elder*
Peter Griffith, Sr., *Ruling Elder*
Chris Kramedjian, *Ruling Elder*
Dr. Brian Nicholson, *Ruling Elder*
Tom Sell, *Ruling Elder*

Deacons

(deacons@providencecpca.org)

Ben Donet
David Lawson
Levi Myers
Matthew Smith
Aaron Stewart
Shane Shepherd (*On Sabbatical*)

Providence Staff

John D. Bennett, Senior Pastor

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Beth Herring, Administrative Assistant

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Valerye Sweatt, Ministry Coordinator

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Davis Sweatt, RUF Campus Minister

davis.sweatt@ruf.org

Jeffrey Clendennen,

Pastoral Intern and Youth Director

jeffrey.clendennen@providencecpca.org

Providence Lay Ministry Teams Leadership

Christian Education Team Jeremy Dalton

Hospitality Team Alisha Donet, Leader ◦
Assistants: Tori Donet ◦ Kayla Harwood

Missions Team Rebecca Mulkey ◦ Brenda Hayes

Music Team Matthew and Allison Smith

Women's Ministry Team Melynn Henry ◦ Kyla Sell ◦
womensministry@providencecpca.org

*Please contact the Ministry Coordinator
for more information on serving on one of these teams
or with other ministry opportunities.*

General information: admin@providencecpca.org

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.