

Providence Presbyterian Church
Worship Service—March 14, 2021

Zoom Greeting

Prelude & Quiet Meditation

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: When we cry out to the LORD in times of trouble;

People: The LORD saves us from distress.

Leader: Let us thank the LORD for God's wonderful works,

People: And tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

Opening Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
5 4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,
9 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord, you give us minds to comprehend, to think creatively, and to creatively engage your mission,

People: but we confess that we think in narrow boxes, living out a poorly conceived vision, voiced in the rhetoric others have shaped.

Leader: Lord, you give us hearts to engage you, to be loved and to love you,

People: but we confess that we settle for a cold relationship, lacking in communication, warmth, and affection.

Leader: Lord, you give us imagination, to dream of a world transformed by your beauty and grace

People: but we confess that we have given in to brute reality, lamenting the world as it is, and claiming our own powerless.

Leader: Lord, you give us wills to choose you and to do your work.

People: We choose you again. We choose to love you. We choose to accept your forgiveness. We choose to give our hearts to your world, to do what we can, and to accept your forgiveness for what we cannot.

Moment of Silence followed by Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Responsive Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all
2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise, Thou mine in -
3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word; I ev - er
else to me, save that Thou art Thou my best thought, by
her - i - tance, now and al - ways: Thou and Thou on - ly,
with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Heart of my own heart, what
day or by night, Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
first in my heart, Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
ev - er be - fall, Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Poem

Born Again

by David Whyte

I want to be born again but I want to be born
exactly the self same way, with both feet
on ground I know, seeing a purple line of moor
edging my father's Yorkshire; or standing there,
dumbstruck and dumbfounded on the edge
of my mother's turf, looking out
from Thoor Anu, over the boiling surf to Aran.

I want to be young and start it all again
but this time I want to deserve my youth,
to study generosity, to watch my mind
grow supple, to conjugate the verbs
that mark the body's joyful round
and anticipate even my heart break
by thinking of the love ahead.

I want to be born again, but I want to be born exactly
as I was, almost between things, as I was in this life,
and as I want to be in the next: Mary Teresa O'Sullivan,
nine months gone, carrying me back to England,
her pains sharp in Waterford, sharper in Dublin,
the hard rolling bench of the ferry almost my midwife.

I want to be born again, in exactly the self same life,
aware this time from the inside out, and to stand this time
as a beautiful un-worrying witness, living beyond
the need for this or that; some memory always with me
of a ship making its way through lifting water,
the song of the wind, the song of my mother,
my father's disbelieving, expectant face,
and the crowding, merciful voice of the sea at my birth.

I want to be born again so that I can hear
the familiar sounds again, but this time
know what I am hearing from the inside out,
that first beckoning roar of the sea,
then the firmness of footsteps on land,
and after, in that hidden, hill-bound house,
my mother's singing voice, my sisters' first words
and my father's voice at the lighted door.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Testament Reading: John 3:1-12

Children's Message

Cassie Bennett

Sermon Title: "Can Anyone Be Born Again after Having Grown Old?"

Rev. Dave Pettit

Hymn

Take My Life

1. Take my life, and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse
3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly,
4. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet it's

4
Lord, to Thee. Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in
of Thy love. Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti -
for my King. Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sa -
tre - a - sure store. Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly,

8
cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
ges from Thee, Filled with mes - sa - ges from Thee.
all for Thee, Ev - er on - ly all for Thee.

Call for The Offering

Prayer of Dedication of the Morning Offering

Benediction

Postlude

Participants in the Worship Service: Pastor Dave Pettit, Cassie Bennett, Dana Pease, Amy Thorne, Bonnie Thompson