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;

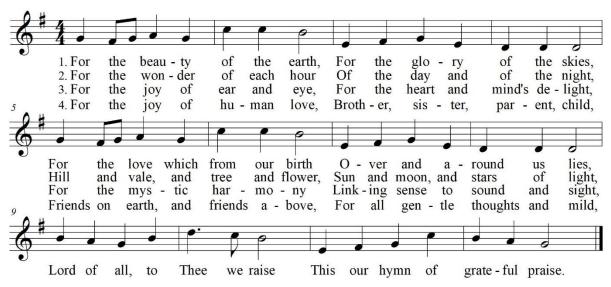
People: The LORD saves us from distress.

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



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

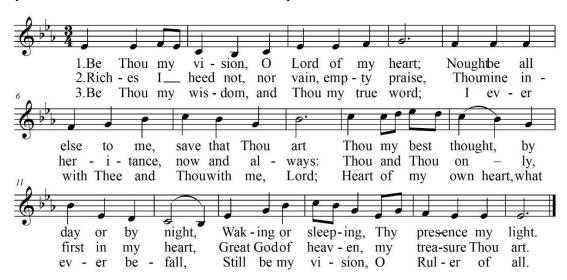
People: but we confess that we have given in to brute reality, lamenting the world as it is, and claiming our own powerless.

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

Be Thou My Vision



*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 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 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.

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, 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.

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?"

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Take My Life Hymn life, and 1. Take my let it be Con ed. - se crat 2. Take my hands, and them let move At the im - pulse 3. Take my voice, and let me A1 ways, on ly, sing, 4. Take my it's love; my Lord, I at thy feet pour Lord, to Thee. mo-ments and my days; them flow Take my Let Take my Thy love. feet, and let them be Swift and of beau - ti my King. Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sa for trea - sure store. Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly,

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Call for The Offering

Prayer of Dedication of the Morning Offering

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Benediction

Postlude

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