



## Providence Presbyterian Church

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



### Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

7th Sunday of Easter - May 24, 2020



es it this Saturday is the psychosabbaton (All Soul's Day); on this day the Greeks bless wheat cakes and have processions to the cemeteries.

#### ***The Ascension of Jesus Christ***

(Read: Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11)

*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. ~ from the Apostles' Creed*

The seventh Sunday in the Easter season (May 24, 2020 this year), is sometimes called Ascension Sunday coming just three days after celebrating Ascension Day. Yet, many Christian people have little idea of just how significant the Ascension is for us as followers of Jesus.

Most of us understand Christ's sufferings and death as inseparably linked to his resurrection. However, we easily forget that the Ascension is part of the same saving event. Without it, something's missing. for the Ascension signifies Christ's participation, in His humanity, in God's power and authority. It marks Jesus Christ as Lord, possessing all power in heaven and on earth.

In the first century, ascension stories signified ascendancy to power, as a king ascended to the throne. They also marked the supposed deification of a special person (usually a Roman Emperor) or, in a Jewish context, they indicated divine approval (such as with Enoch and Elijah)

The Ascension becomes significant for us because it happened to Christ *in His humanity*. Thus, because as Christians we are "in Christ," the Ascension reminds us that **we** have a place in heaven, too. Thomas Aquinas put it like this: "Christ by once ascending into heaven acquired for Himself **and for us** (*italics mine—rhh*) in perpetuity the right and worthiness of a heavenly dwelling-place."

The Ascension of Jesus Christ is the guarantee of a place for us, one that He goes to prepare as He promised in John 14:2.

As Scripture describes Christ's ascension, when He transitioned from earth to heaven after His life, ministry, death, and resurrection, it's as a *passive* action—Jesus was "taken up" into heaven. I.e., in the ascension of Jesus, God the Father exalted the Lord to His right hand in heaven. Jesus did not exalt Himself.

**Greetings Everyone** — Today is the Seventh Sunday of Easter. In Rome it was called Sunday of the Roses ("Pascha rosarum" or "rosatum"), since in the Pantheon rose-leaves were thrown from the rotunda into the church; in the Greek and Russian Churches it is the feast of the 318 Fathers of the first Nicene Council; the Armenians call it the "second feast of the flowers", a repetition of Palm Sunday. By older liturgists the week before Pentecost is called "Hebdomada expectationis", week of the expectation of the Holy Ghost. On the Vigil of Pentecost the baptismal water is blessed in the Latin Church; in the Oriental Church-

Likewise, our transition from earth to heaven is never the result of our own action. Rather it's a gracious gift that comes to us because of what God did and does for us through Jesus as we are *in Him* by faith. We do not exalt ourselves but humbly receive it as a free gift by grace through faith.

In his *Concise Theology*, J. I. Packer indicates that Christ's Ascension firmly establishes three facts about Him:

1. **Christ's personal ascendancy.** Jesus went up to the place of power, pictured as a throne at the Father's right hand. To sit on such a throne, like a Grand Vizier in the Persian court used to do, is to occupy the position of executive ruler on the monarch's behalf.
2. **Christ's spiritual omnipresence.** In the heavenly sanctuary, Jesus is now accessible to all who invoke Him, and He is powerful to help them, anywhere in the world.
3. **Christ's heavenly ministry.** The reigning Lord intercedes for His people. Though requesting from the Father is part of what He does, the essence of Christ's intercession is to intervene in our interest (from His throne) rather than supplication on our behalf (as if His position was one of sympathy without status or authority). In sovereignty He now lavishes upon us the benefits that His suffering won for us. From His throne He sends the Holy Spirit constantly to enrich us as His people and equip us for service.

I think we can add a fourth; one that fans of *NCIS* might see echoed in Gibb's Rule #11: "When the Job is Done, Walkaway." With His Ascension, Jesus walks away from His earthly work. It's done. He accomplished all He came to earth do. *And* it makes His heavenly working possible as an Advocate and Intercessor, as One who prepares a place for us and welcomes us home. So, let me wish you a ...

***Happy Ascension Sunday!***

*Pastor Dick H.*



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#### Wasted Time

**Randy York**

Amid our pause from gathering together during the Covid 19 issue, the work of the PNC goes on. We continue to receive information from and evaluate potential pastoral candidates. We have refined and structured our process since the time we began, and as such are better positioned to move forward when the right person is presented to us.

At one of our first meetings, we chose ten competencies from a list provided by presbytery that we would like to see an individual possess. These included qualities such as team builder, change agent, motivator, advisor, and tech savvy. These are practical qualities to build a framework of consideration upon, an "eye test" so to speak.

But what of a heart test? The ability of a pastor to lead a congregation based on the mercy that God has shown to them. The value of having a person in the pulpit whose heart has been softened by the mercy, grace, and love of God. To be able to hear from them not simply words, but a sense of the wonder of God's grace and presence. A wonder stemming from their need to know God's grace in a personal way, and since that grace has been so experienced by them, that they use every opportunity to tell folks how God can take our prodigal nature, and by his mercy, welcome us back. Their sense of wonder at God's walk with them will influence the way they share His word with us.

The previous PNC set that bar for us when they chose Ivo Meilands all those years ago. His preaching came from a heart that spoke of shared experience and struggle. He was with us under the conviction of the messages he gave. Our committee is well served in valuing this vital ability.

And what about our own "heart test"? Before the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, we are given the Parable of the Lost Sheep. The shepherd in the parable stops everything, leaves behind his ninety-nine sheep, and goes in search for his one missing lamb. As the shepherd searches, one supposes that the lost lamb also misses and seeks out the shepherd. The convicting question posed: Am I truly seeking the shepherd? Am I satisfied in giving God one day in seven and having a shallow faith? Or has my life been affected by God's grace and mercy in such a way that I seek Him out each day, walking with Him in each moment. A faith relationship such as C. Austin Miles pictured in his lyric, "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own" A sense of wonder that a God of unconditional, welcoming love and grace is waiting for us. Scripture tells us that the Pharisees grumbled saying of Jesus, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." The same thought should bring us joy as we seek our loving Shepherd.



### Please help us reach everyone!



**If you are aware of anyone that is not receiving our Newsletter or if you would like to gift someone with a free subscription to our newsletter, please contact me at my e-mail, [RickCheslo@Gmail.com](mailto:RickCheslo@Gmail.com), so I can add them to our distribution.**





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#### PRAYER REQUESTS

From All Of Us — For **Joe Celkupa** who is home and continuing to recover.

From All Of Us — For **Wendy Varga** who is sldo continuing to recover from her fall.

**Wendy Varga** — For her nephew, **Sean** as he continues chemotherapy.

**Marge Hull** — Her Son, **Lee** is doing much better. It's a miracle he is slowly improving. Please pray for his continued recovery.

**Becky Jensen** — For continued prayers for the PNC as they carry on their mission.

**Margo Mattis** — For her Mother, **Jean Miller**

**Wendy Kasper** — Asks for prayers for healing and strength in the midst of her chemotherapy.

**Sheila Zier** — Prayers for healing and strength and encouragement for her daughter, **Brittany** as she is battling a serious long term disease.

**Betsy Reeder** — For **Mary Kyle**, for healing and that she will be able to attend her granddaughter's wedding in July

#### **Bustleton's Best—Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week**

It is Memorial Day weekend which makes it the perfect time for barbecue! This lip smacking finger licking bit of Bustleton's Best Barbecue comes to us from Kathy Owens. I have to clean off my keyboard because I am drooling just typing about them. These are the real deal, and they pair perfectly with Wendy Varga's Make Ahead Mashed Potatoes featured last week. I hope you got those ready this week, so you can kick back while these are reaching heavenly perfection on a plate. I for one am very excited for these and hungry to boot. Enjoy!



#### **Barbecued Spareribs**

Kathy Owens

*"I prefer Country style spareribs—they have more meat on them."*

4 pounds pork spareribs, cut into serving pieces	1 C catsup
1 lemon, thinly sliced (or you can use RealLemon juice)	1/3 C Worcestershire sauce
1 large onion, thinly sliced	1 t chili powder
1 ½ C water	1 t salt
	Dash bottled hot pepper sauce

Place ribs, meaty side down, in shallow roasting pan. Season with salt. Roast in oven at 450 for 30 minutes. Drain off excess fat. Turn ribs meaty side up. Top ribs with lemon and onion. Reduce oven temperature to 350. Continue roasting ribs for 30 minutes. Combine remaining ingredients in a saucepan and bring to boil. Pour mixture over ribs and continue roasting for 1 hour, basting occasionally. If sauce gets too thick, add more water. Serves 4 to 6.



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## Graduations!

### May

Jane Cheslo — Rowan College of Burlington County  
Verity Cheslo — University of Rhode Island  
Hannah Kroh — Belmont University, Nashville, TN  
Taylor Reeder — Rider University, Lawrence, NJ  
Malcolm Slaney — University of Las Vegas, Masters Degree



## Birthdays!

Karl Solymosi — Happy Birthday to you!



Please e-mail [RickCheslo@Gmail.com](mailto:RickCheslo@Gmail.com) if there are others who are graduating, celebrating a birthday or any other life event, and we will recognize you here.

**Please send in your Photos this week! Everyone would love to see your smile face with or without a mask!**

You can send in your masked photos like this typically scary looking gentleman here, or if you are rocking some shelter in place whiskers be it a full on beard, a Vandyke, goatee, five o'clock shadow, or designer stubble, lets see your smiling mug. Or if you are enjoying a family backyard barbecue send in a picture of everyone around the picnic table digging in to the delicious barbecued ribs I know you will make.

Send your Pictures for publication to  
[RickCheslo@Gmail.com](mailto:RickCheslo@Gmail.com)



## Notices

### Excellent Caregiver Available

If anyone in your circle of family or friends has the need for an elderly care provider, Barb York highly recommends Kate who cared for her Dad before he passed. Kate also cared for Doug & Dorothy Ruck before they moved to Florida

Kate has excellent experience and a medical background. She is caring, compassionate and a truly loving person. She is looking for a 24/7 hour position. She has a license to drive, which many agency caregivers do not have.

If you're interested, please call Kate at 908-413-1324.

### Refrigerator

Free to a Good Home!

Currently in the Manse.

Contact Bob Lee for details.

### Church Office Hours

Barb Hammell is manning our Church Office to keep us on top of all our Business needs & obligations. **Thank you Barb!** Her hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The office telephone is (609) 499-2753





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### Memorial Day — 2020



United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30. However, in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May. Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem, "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day as he called it was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any particular battle.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the

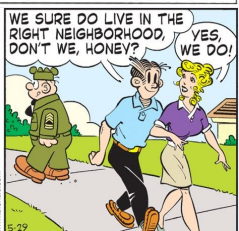
In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

We salute all of the  
Veterans of  
Providence  
Presbyterian Church  
Past & Present.

Thank You For Your  
Service!



Barbara Hammill has placed copies of the May/June Upper Room devotional in the back of the Church. Come by on Sunday & pick up a copy while taking advantage of the drive-thru offering! This clever young couple rode their bikes!

### Reminder - Save a Stamp!

Come to the Drive - Thru Offering from 8:30 am to 9:00 AM and 11:00 to 11:30 AM each Sunday morning. We average 12 to 14 cars each week. Come join the parade and Say Hey to Jack! Also don't forget to Honk or Ring Your Bell on your way out!

