



# 1st Sunday of Advent

**PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
A Caring Christian Fellowship Reaching Out in Response to God's Love

## The Church Gathers in God's Name

Welcome.  
We are glad  
you have chosen  
to gather and  
worship!  
Go to  
[www.provpres.org](http://www.provpres.org)  
to join us for a live  
broadcast starting  
at 11:00 am.

### Words of Welcome

### Invocation

**Tolling of the Bell** - Rung three times to symbolize our Triune God

### Introit

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

Claire Cloninger, 1986  
Don Cason, 1986

### Prelude

"Sleepers Wake"

German Chorale

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Nielson family

Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

**We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.**

Advent is a time to remember that God's love extends to all people.

**We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.**

Advent is a time to renew our determination.

**We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.**

Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

**We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.**

### Opening Hymn 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Charles Wesley, 1744  
R. H. Prichard, 1830

*The Affirmation of  
Faith helps us  
express the faith  
and hope we have  
as people of God.*

## Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Gloria Patri

*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. Amen.*

*We confess our sins  
as the people of God  
together, out loud,  
and to others because  
of the incredible  
power there is in  
putting our failures  
and faults in the light  
of God's love.*

## Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. We ask this in the name of the One who set us free as we make our private confessions...

## Silent Prayer of Confession

## Words of Assurance

### Anthem

"Give Thanks"

Henry Smith  
arr. Phillip Keveren

(11 am only)

## Time with Young Disciples

# We Hear God's Word

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

### Sermon

"The Promise of Christmas"

# We Give Thanks to God

*A time to offer  
prayer for others  
and ourselves to  
God.*

## Pastoral Prayer and 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 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.

# We Go in Christ's Name to Serve

**Closing Hymn 129**

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

German carol

arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

pre-9th century Latin plainsong

*O come, O come, Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Postlude**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

arr. John S. Dixon

*Have a blessed week!*

## Online instruction for Worship

1. Go to [provpres.org/worship](http://provpres.org/worship)
2. The top green buttons are the bulletin, sermon notes, and bulletin for the kids.
3. Scroll down until you see pre-recorded Music from our Sanctuary.