

December 24, 2021



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.

### PRELUDE

### INVOCATION

### TOLLING OF THE BELL

### SOLO

*O Holy Night*  
(Linda Baker)

Adolphe Adam

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight, we celebrate hope fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

**Joy to the world! The Lord has come.**

Tonight, we celebrate the promise of peace on earth.

**Let earth receive her King.**

Tonight, we celebrate the joy of knowing a Savior has come.

**Let every heart prepare Him room.**

Tonight, we celebrate the love of God, through Jesus Christ.

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!**

### LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

**CAROL***O Come, All Ye Faithful*

John Francis Wade

*O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
 O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels!  
 O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
 O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
 O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
 O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*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.**

**SOLO**

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*  
 (Wayne Baker)

African American Spiritual

*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**

**God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, like the shepherds, we are terrified of Your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety; how the lonely yearn to belong. We also see what's wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we don't practice the peace You intended for our relationships, this world, or Your church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find You. This we pray in Jesus' name, as we offer our silent confessions...**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION****SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:1-7

**SERMON**

"The Christ of Christmas"

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

As "Silent Night" is being Sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ candle. The elders will then light the candles of the first worshiper in each pew. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. (To avoid wax spills the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted.)

### CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

text by Joseph Mohr  
music by Franz Grüber

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star; lend thy light; with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace; Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star; lend thy light; with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our king: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

### BENEDICTION

#### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Joy to the World*

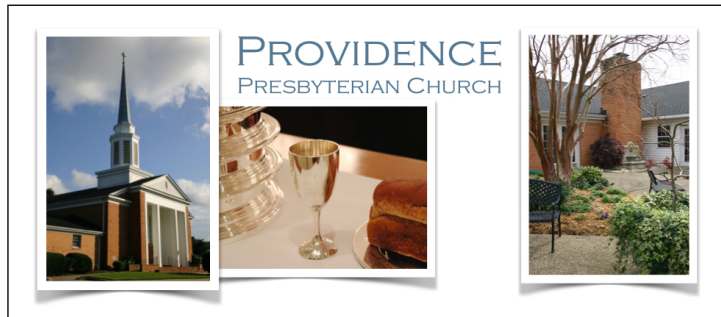
text by Issac Watts  
music by G.F Handel

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

### POSTLUDE

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

arr. John S. Dixon



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*The Christmas Offering* being received tonight funds the Food Pantry Fund of Providence. This fund helps members of our church and the local community in times of need. Make checks payable to Providence Presbyterian Church with an indication for "Food Pantry."