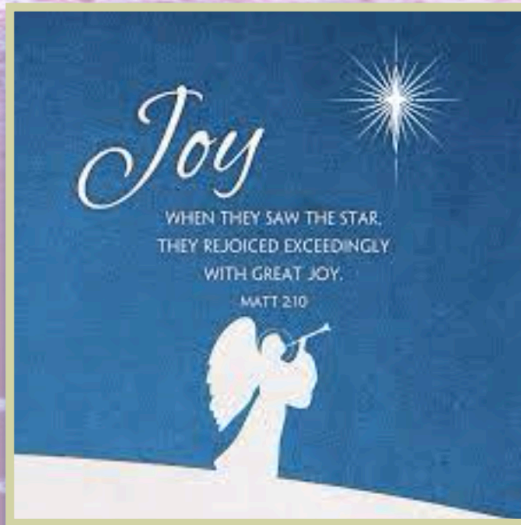


December 11, 2022



Third 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
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

PRELUDE

The Wexford Carol

Irish carol

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Advent is a time to open our eyes to our many blessings.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Advent is a time to remember the promises of God.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Hymn 92, verse 3

*Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come,
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.*

Reading

Lighting the Candle

HYMN 133, VERSES 1, 3, 4

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Please stand, if able)

John F. Wade, 1743



*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!*

*[refrain] 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! [refrain]
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [refrain]*

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Coming Lord, as we wait and watch and yearn and ache, we look around for signs of your presence. But mostly what we see are signs of our sinfulness. The needy are overlooked. Selfishness too often dominates our decisions. Hatred and violence triumph over peace and reconciliation. Our commitments waver, our resolve weakens, and we find ourselves straying from your path. We long for a word of forgiveness and grace. Come quickly, Lord, bringing hope, and show us your mercy. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Service of Lessons and Carols

SOLO

Once in Royal David's City text by C. F. Alexander, 1848
(Sarah Hyslop) music by H. J. Gauntlet, 1849



*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19

*Adam and Eve disobey God's command
and disrupt the order and goodness of creation*

ANTHEM

From the Apple in the Garden text by Shirley Erena Murray
setting by Roy Hopp

*From the apple in the garden to the manger and the star,
from the rainbow and the promise to the moment where we are,
you are our hope, loving God.*

*From the manna in the desert to the breaking of the bread,
from the hunger of the ages to our hunger to be fed,
you are our hope, loving God.*

*From the prisons of the prophets to the growing light of day,
from the death within the darkness to the stone that rolls away,
you are our hope, loving God.*

*From the curse of Eve and Adam to the blessing of the Christ,
from the spirit of division to your Spirit in our midst,
still be our hope, loving God.*

SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 22:15-18

*God promises that, through Abraham,
all the peoples of the world will be blessed*

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 9th century plainsong
(seated)

*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.*

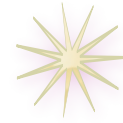
*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*



THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

*The people who walk in darkness
receive the promise of the Messiah*



CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(seated)

text by E. H. Sears, 1849
music by Richard Willis, 1850

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-4A, 6-9

*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse
to restore the peace of creation*

ANTHEM

Ave Maria
(Michael Cohen, oboe)

Giulio Caccini (1545-1618)
arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-35, 38

*An angel appears to Mary and announces
that she will bear a holy child*

ANTHEM

What Child Is This?

text by William C. Dix
music by John S. Dixon

*What child is this, is this who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap, her lap, is sleeping!
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King, Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean, such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding, feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners, sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.*

*Nails, nails and spear shall pierce, pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, Word made flesh,
the babe, the son, the babe, the son of Mary.*



*So bring him incense, incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all to own him, own him.
The King of kings salvation brings:
let loving, loving hearts enthrone him.*

*This, this is Christ the King, Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son, the son of Mary.*

SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem,
Where Mary gives birth to her child*



CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Tiny King

*Mary had a baby, tiny King, tiny King,
and she laid him in a stable bare.
Oh, Mary had a baby, tiny King, tiny King,
and they say that his name was
wonderful, marvelous, the Lord of light and love.*

*Mary had a baby, tiny King, tiny King,
and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes.
Oh, Mary had a baby, tiny King, tiny King,
and they say that his name was
wonderful, marvelous, the Lord of light and love.*

*Mary had a baby, tiny King, tiny King,
and the angels sang 'round his bed..
Oh, Mary had a baby, tiny King, tiny King,
and they say that his name was
Jesus!*



SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-16

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields
And announce the birth of the Messiah*

CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High
(standing)*

French carol

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

EIGHTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-11

*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah
and offer gifts to the baby Jesus*

CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are
(seated)

John H. Hopkins, 1857

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*



NINTH LESSON

JOHN 1:1-14

The Word of God becomes flesh
And lives among us, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

Joy to the World
(standing)

Isaac Watts, 1719

*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.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rock, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*



We Give Thanks to God

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

What Can I Give Him?

arranged by John S. Dixon

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



Prayer of Dedication

We Go in Christ's Name to Serve

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on an Old English Carol

John S. Dixon



★ **Saturday, December 24 - 5:00 pm** Christmas Eve Service with children's pageant, communion, and candle lighting

★ **Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day Worship at 11:00 am** - Comfortable, casual dress (Christmas sweaters, Christmas Pjs, fuzzy slippers...) is encouraged. Hear the Christmas story in a new way. Sing your favorite carols and enjoy some hot chocolate and fellowship after worship.

For any further information, please contact the church office at 757-420-6159 or check out our website: www.provpres.org

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship and life of Providence.

Providence is a "traditional Presbyterian Church which glorifies God through His word and direction..." In keeping with our vision, we are committed to ministering to each other, our community, and the world at large.

- Following worship, enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall, found by exiting the sanctuary through either of the front two doors and turning left down the back hallway.
- Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are welcome to join our Little Lambs Ministry during the worship service for age-appropriate learning through play. Little Lambs can be found by exiting the sanctuary through the door by the American flag and continuing straight down the hallway.
- Busy Bags, for young children remaining in worship, are available at all entrances to the sanctuary.
- Kindly turn off your cellular phone while in the sanctuary.
- Visitor information bags are available at both entrances. If you are visiting today, please feel free to take one as our gift to you.
- You may place your offertory envelopes in the offering plate located in the narthex.

Interim Pastor, Rev. Libby Rollins
Today's Liturgist, Dianne Stockmeier
Director of Music, Valetta Fellenbaum
Organist, John Dixon
Administrative Assistant, Kristen Ferragut

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