

December 6, 2020



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

*The Diaspora Gather 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**

"The Huron Carol"

Jean de Brébeuf, 1643

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead.  
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria!

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found.  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapp'd his beauty round.  
And as the hunter braves drew nigh the angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria!

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fur and beaver pelt.  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria!

Oh children of the forest free, oh sons of Manitou,  
The holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria! In excelsis gloria!

**Invocation**

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

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent is marked by a spirit yearning for peace.

**May we be filled with the peace of Christ.**

We long for peace among each other.

**May we be filled with the peace of Christ.**

We long for peace among nations.

**May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.**

This morning we light two candles. The light of this second candle reminds us that God sent his Son into the world to bring peace in our hearts and lives.

**May we be filled with the peace of Christ. AMEN**

## Choral Response

*"While We Are Waiting, Come"*

Text by Claire Cloninger  
Music by Don Carson (1986)

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come*

*With power and glory come; with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

## Opening Song

*"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"*

text by Christina Rossetti  
music by Gustav Holst  
arr. by Mack Wilberg

(Robin Birdwell)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when  
he comes to reign.*

*In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*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.*

## 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.**

## Prayer of Confession

December is here, Lord, and we look forward to the celebration of Christmas. Time seems to get away from us and we get trapped in the buy-wrap-send syndrome. We confess that it's easy to get involved in all the opportunities and stresses that come our way. Forgive us when we put faith on a back burner and focus instead on the pressures in our lives. Help us to take time to see your light which shines in our path and leads us to peace and hope. Clear our spirits of the frustrations and anxieties of this season, so that the Light that you send will truly shine in and through us. We ask these things in Jesus' name, as we offer these silent confessions...

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

*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.*

**Silent Prayer of Confession**

**Words of Assurance**

(11 am only) **Time with Young Disciples**

## *We Hear God's Word*

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 1:1-8

**Sermon**

"Prepare the Way"

## *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*

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

"May The Lord"

John S. Dixon

(sung by members of the Chancel Choir; video produced by Robie Armbruster)

**Postlude**

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

(Piano/organ duet - Valetta Fellenbaum and John Dixon)

*Today's music  
has been  
pre-recorded  
and may be found  
on the church's  
website.*

**Pre-recorded Music**

"The Huron Carol"

(John Dixon, piano)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(Valetta Fellenbaum, piano; John Dixon, organ)

### **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.

*Have a blessed week!*

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