

December 13, 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
to join us for a live
broadcast starting
at 11:00 am.

Prelude

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Text by Johannes Olearius, 1671
Music from the Genevan Psalter, 1551

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.

"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.*

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Invocation

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Come, continue on the journey. It is not far now.

Where are we going?

God is welcoming us to God's kingdom.

Can we see it from here?

We see it in the faces of those who know God's love.

Will that same love be given to us?

It already has been given, and his name is Jesus! He is God's beloved Son, our Light and Hope.

Quickly, let us journey toward his light. 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

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

German carol
arr. Michael Praetorius (1609)

(Ashley Veraque)

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung;
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us, and lightens every load.*

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

God of mercy, light and love, we confess that we have not been people who are quick to pray. When an emergency comes into our lives, we turn to you pleading and praying, which usually begins with the heart-wrenching cry, "Why?". Help us remember that you are always ready to hear and respond to our prayers. Remind us that even though we often fail to witness to your love and live as people of compassion and faith, you love us unconditionally. Forgive our stubbornness and willfulness. Cleanse our souls and spirits and make us truly ready to receive your light. This we pray in Jesus' name, as we offer our 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

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon

"Wait"

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

"Voluntary on an Old English Carol"

John S. Dixon

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

Pre-recorded Music

"Offertory on the Wexford Carol"

by John S. Dixon

"Voluntary on an Old English Carol"

arr. John S. Dixon

*Please see online
instruction below*

Online instruction for Worship

1. Go to 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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