

December 20, 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**

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* Text by Charles Wesley, 1744  
Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

**Invocation**

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

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Advent is a time to celebrate God's love.

**God's love is pure.**

We celebrate by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

**God's love is everlasting.**

We celebrate by loving the Lord our God with all our heart.

**God's love is all-powerful.**

We celebrate by spreading God's love to a world in need.

**God's love is freely given to all.**

## 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.*

*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.**

## Carol

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* Text by Phillips Brooks  
(Sarah and Jonathan Hyslop) Music by Lewis Henry Redner

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the Holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

*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

**Holy God, You promised to do great things for us, yet we don't often trust You. You extend Your mercy to us, yet we don't often forgive others. You lift up the humble, You fill the hungry with good things, and yet we put others down and keep the good things for ourselves. Forgive us, and help us to be more obedient to Your calling. This we pray in Jesus' name, as we offer our silent confessions...**

## Silent Prayer of Confession

## Words of Assurance

*(11 am only)*

## Time with Young Disciples

## Sacrament of Baptism

*Colton James Burdette*

*Baptism is God's gift  
of grace and a call to  
respond to that grace.  
(11 am only)*

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.**

# We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

"The Angel's Message"

# 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

"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.*

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

Postlude

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

arr. John S. Dixon

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

Pre-recorded Music

"How Far Is It to Bethlehem?"

arr. John S. Dixon

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

arr. John S. Dixon

## **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.

*Please see online  
instruction below*

*Have a blessed week!*

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