

December 27, 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

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" text by Joseph Simpson Cook (1930)
music from *Piae Cantiones* (1582)
arr. by Paul Manz

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

*Angels sang about his birth; wisemen sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.*

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory.*

Invocation

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

Call To Worship

The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.
We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wonderful is about to take root.
The darkness that invaded all lives has been banished by the light of that star.

The darkness that surrounds us is gone!

Let's celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

Let's become those who bring the light of God's love to others. AMEN.

Opening Song

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
(Gary Reese)

African American Spiritual

*[Refrain] Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

*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.

*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

Lord of light, we hear the story of the Magi and tie it to our warm Christmas celebrations. It feels comfortable to us. Break those bonds of comfort and help us to realize the risk of witness and discipleship for those who follow your light. Shine brightly on us, in us, and through us. Forgive the blindness we so often offer to you, and give us a vision of what you would have us be and do in the Light of Your Love. 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

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

"Back to the Real World"

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

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

setting by John Leavitt

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

Pre-recorded Music

"Meditation on the Wexford Carol"

by John S. Dixon

"Intermezzo on Carol of the Bells"

by 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!