

December 3, 2023



## PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Rooted in Faith, Nurtured by Grace, Growing God's Kingdom*

# We 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

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Swedish carol

*(A time to quietly prepare our hearts for worship)*

### Words of Welcome

*(Please sign friendship pads and pass to your neighbor.)*

### Opening Prayer

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

### Introit

*Wait for the Lord*

Jacque Berthier, 1984

### Lighting of Advent Candle

**Hope**

Halsey Wilson  
Forrest Womble

Sung Response

*(sung to the tune of Away in A Manger)*

***A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
A candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from Heaven's starry sky,  
Our Hearts we prepare now for Jesus is night.***

## Call to Worship

This is the season of holy waiting.

**We wait for the day when swords are transformed into plowshares.**

We watch for the day when the ways of war are exchanged for the ways of peace.

**We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.**

Come, let us walk in the light of God!

## Hymn 82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Charles Wesley, 1744  
R. H. Prichard, 1830

*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.**

## 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.*

*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

**God who is with us and God who is on the way, as we wait and watch and yearn and ache this Advent season, we look around for signs of your presence. But we must admit mostly what we see are signs of our sinfulness. Too often the needy are overlooked as selfishness dominates our decisions. Hatred and violence triumph over peace and reconciliation as we have ceased to believe that peace and harmony among people and nations is possible. 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

# We Hear God's Word

## First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

## Anthem

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

French noel melody  
arr. John S. Dixon

## Time with Young Disciples

## Second Reading

Mark 13:24-37

## Sermon

The Countdown Begins

# We Respond in Thanks

## Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

## Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

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

## Hymn 92

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

Claire Cloninger, 1986

## Benediction

### Benediction Response

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* pre-9th century plainsong

***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.***

## Postlude

Postlude on "Sleepers Wake"

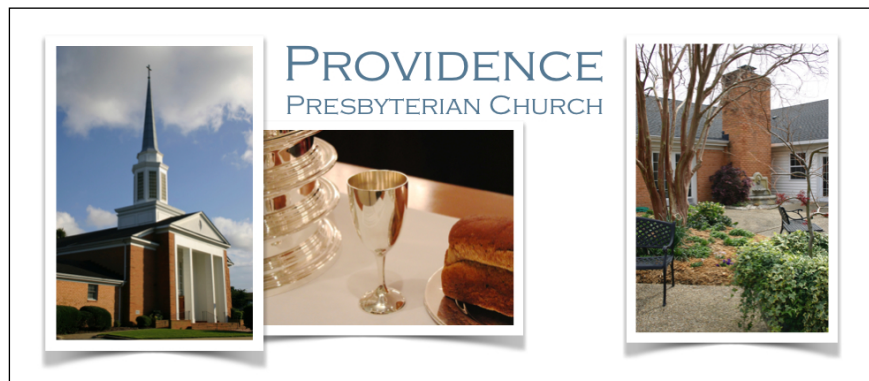
John S. Dixon

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

[music@provpres.org](mailto:music@provpres.org)  
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### Session Members

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Robie Armbruster - Clerk of the Session	Robin Birdwell - Worship Chair	Elizabeth Carter
Chris Bauman - Fellowship Chair	Matt Clatterbuck	Jane Pritchett
Sue Crosland	Kevin Daley	Connie Salter - Christian Life Chair
Tom McMahan - Administration Chair	Dale Passarella - Property Chair	Ashley Schroeder
Brent Nielson - Congregational Care Chair	Frances Stefonich - Mission Outreach Evangelism Chair	Nancy Lindgren
	<b>Trustees</b>	
Karen Dixon	Tracy Gilbert	Jerry Barnes



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