

December 10, 2023



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

The Church Gathers 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

Bagatelle on "Il Est Né"

arr. John S. Dixon

(Michael Cohen, oboe)

(A time to quietly prepare our hearts for worship)

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

TOLLING OF THE BELL – Rung three times to symbolize our Triune God

INTROIT

Jubilate Deo (Raise a Song of Gladness) Jacques Berthier, 1978

Jubilate Deo omnis terra, (Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth,)

Servite Domino in laetitia. (Christ will come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.)

Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia! (Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

The Cohen Family

SUNG RESPONSE

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

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflicts must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the season of holy waiting.

We wait for the One on whom the Spirit of the Holy God rests.

We watch for the One who judges with righteousness and decides with equity.

We wait while the night begins to glow with the light of day.

Come, let us walk in the light of God!



*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!*

*[refrain] O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [refrain]*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [refrain]*



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.

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. We have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. We long for a word of forgiveness and grace. Come quickly, Lord, bringing peace, and show us your mercy. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



Service of Lessons and Carols

The Christmas story told through scripture and song

FIRST LESSON

THE PROPHECY - ISAIAH 11:1-4

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort

Genevan Psalter, 1551

arr. John Ferguson



*"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his 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.*

SECOND LESSON

MARY'S ANNUNCIATION - LUKE 1:26-38

TRIO

Mary, Did You Know? Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
(Ashley Veraque, Karen Dixon, Susan Ayers) arr. Jack Schrader

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great, the great "I AM!"*



THIRD LESSON

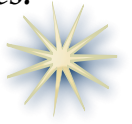
JOSEPH'S DREAM - MATTHEW 1:18-24

HYMN 110

Love Has Come
(seated)

Ken Bible, 1996
French melody

*Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*



*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

FOURTH LESSON

THE BIRTH - LUKE 2:1-7

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

A Christmas Antiphonal

Hal H. Hopson



*Who is he that is born this night? Tell us, O tell us!
He is Mary's Son, the Holy Child, alleluia, alleluia.
Who is he that is born this night? Tell us, O tell us!
He is God's own Son, the Lord of all.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!*

FIFTH LESSON

THE ANGELS - LUKE 2:8-14

HYMN 143

Angles, from the Realms of Glory
(seated)

James Montgomery, 1816
H.T. Smart, 1867

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*



SIXTH LESSON

THE SHEPHERDS - LUKE 2:15-20

ANTHEM

Shepherd's Carol

arr. Patti Drennan

*Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us, when the seraph bright
greeted you with wondrous tiding, what you saw and heard that night.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

*We behold the tiny stranger, God incarnate, King of bliss,
swathed and cradled in a manger, and the angel sang of this:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Angels from the realms of glory sang of Jesus' holy birth;
heavenly bells, ring out the story: "Peace, good will to all the earth."*

Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.



SEVENTH LESSON

THE WORD MADE FLESH - JOHN 1:1-14

HYMN 134

Joy to the World
(standing)

Isaac Watts, 1719

*Joy to the world, the Lord is Come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rock, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*



We Respond in Thanks

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.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

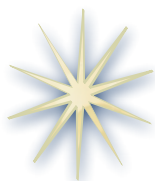
In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti, 1872

Gustav Holst, 1906

arr. Dan Forrest

*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.*



*Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

What Can I Give Him?
(Michael Cohen, oboe)

arr. John S. Dixon

POSTLUDE

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

arr. John S. Dixon





A very special thank you to all who made today's workshop so meaningful.

Providence Chancel Choir

Bells of Providence

Merry Bells

Children's Choir

Michael Cohen

Women's Trio

Valetta Fellenbaum

John Dixon

The technology team running audio and slides

Usher and Greeters

Candle lighters

Thank you for your time, preparation and rehearsals getting ready for today!

Please join us for two worship services on Sunday, December 24!

11:00 am: The 4th Sunday of Advent

Lighting the candle of Love

Special Music

5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service

Lighting the Christ Candle

Children's Pageant

Sacrament of Communion

Special Music with Chancel Choir and Bells of Providence

Passing the Light of Christ and Silent Night

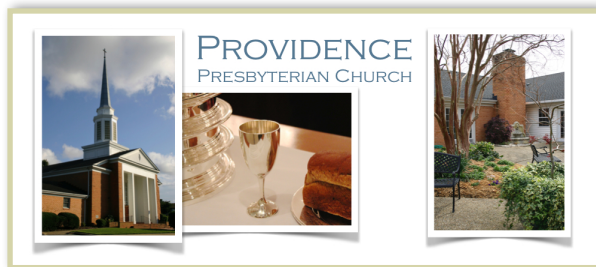


Session Members

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
	Trustees	
Karen Dixon	Tracy Gilbert	Jerry Barnes

Interim Pastor, Rev. Libby Rollins
 Director of Music, Valetta Fellenbaum
 Organist, John Dixon
 Administrative Assistant, Kristen Ferragut

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