

December 17, 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

*What Child Is This*

arr. Paul Manz

*(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

*Come, Come Emmanuel*

James Chepponis, 1995

### Lighting of Advent Candle

**Joy**

The Stasurak and Lewis family

*(Stephen, Natalya, Nikolai, Katiya, Alicia, Logan and Teklyn)*

Sung Response

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

***A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow.  
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.***

## Call to Worship

This is the season of holy waiting.

**We wait for the time when the desert shall bloom abundantly.**

We watch for the day when God's people come together with singing.

**We wait while the dawning light appears on the horizon.**

Come, let us walk in the light of God!

## Hymn 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

F. M. Franzen, 1812  
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. We take your love for granted, claiming your forgiveness but continuing to sin. We hoard your blessings for ourselves and overlook the needs of others. We trust in our own strength instead of living by yours. We long for a word of forgiveness and grace. Come quickly, Lord, bringing joy, and show us your mercy. Amen.**

## Silent Prayer of Confession

## Words of Assurance

# We Hear God's Word

## First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

## Anthem

*Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes*

Joel Raney

## Time with Young Disciples

## Second Reading

Mark 1:1-8

## Sermon

Where Does the Christmas Story Begin?

# We Respond in Thanks

## 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 129

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

German carol

## Benediction

### Benediction Response

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

pre-9th century plainsong

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Postlude

*In dulci jubilo*

arr. Paul Manz

*Have a blessed week!*

Interim Pastor, Rev. Libby Rollins  
 Today's Liturgist, Connie Salter  
 Director of Music, Valetta Fellenbaum  
 Organist, John Dixon  
 Administrative Assistant, Kristen Ferragut

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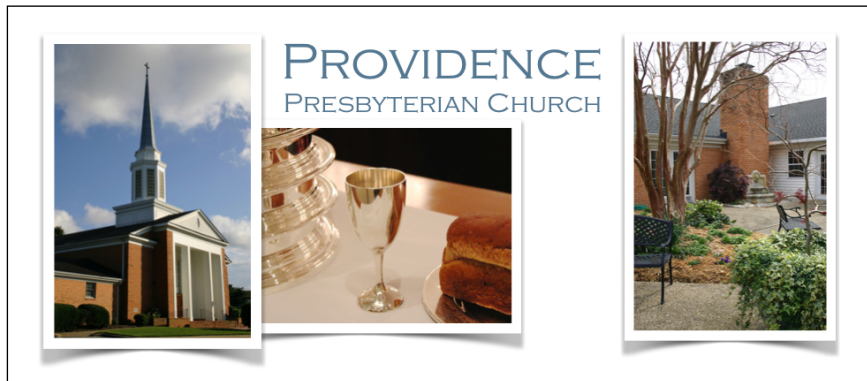
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### Session Members

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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