

December 24, 2023



Christmas Eve

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

Gathering As the People of God

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger
(Bells of Providence)

arr. Cathy Moglebust

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

A child is born for us this night.

A son has been given to us.

Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

There is no room in the inn tonight.

But there is room in our hearts to welcome the Christ child.

Let us now approach the manger and worship him.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Fetzer family

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

*A candle is burning, the candle of Christ.
A candle to point us to God's Holy Light.
A baby is born, a savior so small,
The child, God-with-us, new light for us all.*



SOLO

I Wonder as I Wander (Appalachian Folk Carol)
(Lyle Bagley, cornet)

arr. Molly Ijames

PRAYER:

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night, fill us with your light, as we sing your message of peace with choirs of angels. Open our eyes to love born anew. Open our ears to hear this ancient story in new ways. Open our hearts to wonder at your love, that we may reflect your glory. Amen.

Hymn 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Please stand, if able)

Charles Wesley, 1739



*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*



*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*



*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*



The Service of the Word

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2:1-20

THE CHRISTMAS STORY ACTED OUT BY OUR CHILDREN

THE ANGEL APPEARS TO MARY

THE ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH

CAROL (*seated*) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*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.*

MARY AND JOSEPH FIND NO ROOM IN THE INN

JESUS IS BORN

THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

CAROL (*seated*) Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why our joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

THE SHEPHERDS FIND JESUS IN THE MANGER

CAROL (*seated*) Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

THE KINGS SEE THE STAR AND TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM

CAROL (*seated*) We Three Kings of Orient Are

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

GOD'S LOVE IS HERE ON EARTH

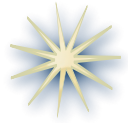


HYMN 121 (standing)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks, 1868

*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!*

ANTHEM

How Quietly

Joel Raney

*How quietly, how quietly, the wondrous gift was given for me.
How sweet and gentle, how meek and mild; this precious gift, this Holy Child.
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
Angels sing to God, our King, of peace to all on earth.
Morning stars break through the darkness proclaiming the holy birth.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

The Service of the Table

HYMN OF INVITATION 133, verse 1
1743

O Come, All Ye Faithful.

John Francis Wade,

(seated)

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



THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Communion tonight will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle. A server will hand you a pre-cut piece of bread which you may dip in the cup. If you are more comfortable with the pre-packaged elements, they are available in the narthex.)

INVITATION

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Nowell, Nowell

Randall Thompson

PRAYER

The Service of the Light

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(As your candle is lit with the light of Christ, you are invited to turn and light your neighbor's candle, sharing the light with those seated near you. To avoid wax spills, the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted.)

HYMN 122 (standing)

Silent Night Joseph Mohr, 1816; Franz Gruber, 1818

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"*



*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

BENEDICTION

(standing)



BENEDICTION RESPONSE

(standing)

Joy to the World

*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.*

POSTLUDE

Postlude on the *Boar's Head Carol*

arr. John S. Dixon



*WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
WORSHIP AND LIFE OF PROVIDENCE.*

- Please silence your phones while in the sanctuary.
- Offering envelopes may be placed in the offering plate located in the narthex.
- Visitor information bags are available at both entrances. If you are visiting tonight, please feel free to take one as our gift to you.
- At the conclusion of the service, please extinguish your candle and place it in the collection bin by the exit.
- Children's costumes may be placed in the tubs by the exits.



A very special thank you to all who made tonight's worship so meaningful.

Providence Chancel Choir

Bells of Providence

Lyle Bagley

Valetta Fellenbaum

John Dixon

Sue Crosland

Susan Ayers

Rich Lindgren


All our sweet children for presenting the Christmas story

The technology team running audio and slides

Usher and Greeters

Communion Servers

Candle lighters



We are so glad you chose to worship with us on this holy night.

Providence is a vibrant, active church which is

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

*We have many ministries within and beyond our walls we invite you to join us in,
including:*

Weekly, Sunday worship at 11:00 am

Vocal and handbell choirs

Active children's ministry

Youth group

Family Fusion



Serving the homeless

Mission trips

Women's and Men's groups

Fellowship events

And more!

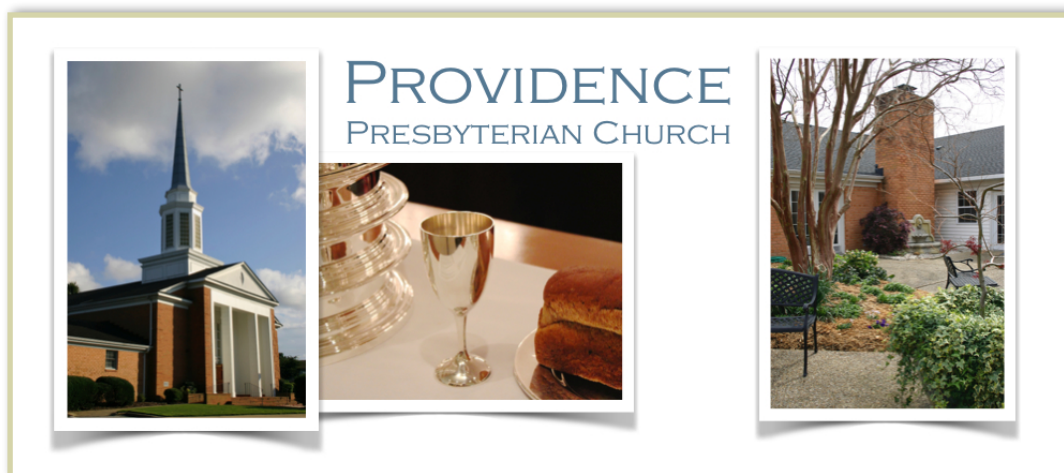


Interim Pastor, Rev. Libby Rollins
 Director of Music, Valetta Fellenbaum
 Organist, John Dixon
 Administrative Assistant, Kristen Ferragut

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music@provpres.org
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office@provpres.org

Ruling Elders

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Nick Bolton	Robie Armbruster - Clerk of the Session	Robin Birdwell - Chair, Worship
Tracy Gilbert	Chris Bauman - Chair, Fellowship	Matt Clatterbuck
Connie Salter - Chair, Christian Life	Sue Crosland	Kevin Daley
Ram Sepulveda - Chair, Administration	Tom McMahan	Dale Passarella - Chair, Property
Gordon Thune	Brent Nielson - Chair, Congregational Care	Frances Stefonich - Chair, Mission, Outreach and Evangelism (MOE)



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