

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent



## PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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.

### *Church Gathers in God's Name*

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*  
(Piano duet: Valetta Fellenbaum and John Dixon)

English Carol

#### OPENING PRAYER

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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, praise His name.**

Proclaim His salvation day after day.

**Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

We light these candles as a sign of the coming Christ. Let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord. As the light of Christ fills the earth, let all the nations declare His glory.

#### SUNG RESPONSE

*With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*



*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**

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man. 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**

Mighty God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Help us to repent and return to you in mercy and forgiveness. 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

#### ANTHEM

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

15<sup>th</sup> century German

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.*

*It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.*

*To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.*



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

*Haidom, Haidom*

folk carol

*Shepherds, leave your flocks tonight, follow yonder star so bright.  
Hearken to the angels' words; rise and leave your flocks and hers.  
Haidom, haidom, diddlidom; haidom, haidom, diddledom.*



*In a manger low he lies; sing his praises to the skies.  
Shepherds, now your fiddles play; blow your bagpipes loud today.  
Haidom, haidom, diddlidom; haidom, haidom, diddledom.*

FIFTH LESSON

THE ANGELS - LUKE 2:8-14

HYMN 113

*Angels, We Have Heard on High*  
(Please stand, if able)

French carol

*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 your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*



SIXTH LESSON

THE SHEPHERDS - LUKE 2:15-20

ANTHEM

*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* African-American spiritual

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow, follow. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*



*If you take good heed to the angels' words; rise up, shepherd, and follow;  
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow, follow. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

SEVENTH LESSON

THE WORD MADE FLESH - JOHN 1:1-14

ANTHEM

*He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

John Ferguson

*He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.*



*He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart, of night within the heart.*

*He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.*

*He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving Name,  
for every child of earth, for every child of earth.*

*He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;  
the Christ in all the scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.*

# *We Respond in Thanks*

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 8:23-27

SERMON TITLE

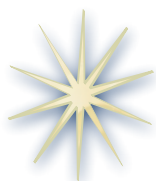
MIGHTY GOD

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.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY      *Christe Redemptor Omnium*      traditional chant, arr. Daniel Elder  
(Sarah Hyslop, Ashley Veraque, Jonathan Hyslop, Robie Armbruster)



*Christe, Redemptor omnium, (Jesus, the Father's only Son,)  
ex Patre, Patris unice, (whose death for all redemption won,)  
solus ante principium (before the worlds, of God most high,)  
natus ineffabiliter. (begotten all ineffably.)*

*Salutis auctor, recole (Salvation's author, call to mind)  
quod nostri quondam corporis, (how, taking the form of humankind,)  
ex illibata Virgine (born of a Virgin undefiled,)  
nascendo, formam sumpseris. (thou in man's flesh becamest a Child.)*

*Sic praesens testatur dies, (Thus testifies the present day)  
currens per anni circulum, (through every year in long array,  
quod a solus sede Patris (that thou, salvation's source alone)  
mundi salus adveneris. (proceedest from the Father's throne.)*

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



**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      9th century plainsong

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**POSTLUDE**      *Sing We Now of Christmas.*      French noel



*Please join us for worship services!*

*11:00 am: The 3rd Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 15*

*Lighting the candle of Joy*

*11:00 am: The 4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 22*

*Lighting the candle of Love*

*5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, December 24*

*Lighting the Christ Candle*

*Children's Pageant*

*Sacrament of Communion*

*Passing the Light of Christ and Silent Night*

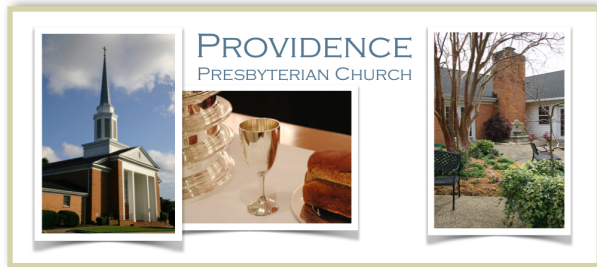


## Session Members

| Class of 2025   | Class of 2026                                  | Class of 2027                           |
|---|--|---|
| Robin Birdwell - Worship                              | Elizabeth Carter - Administration Chair        | Robie Armbruster - Clerk of the Session |
| Matt Clatterbuck - Worship Chair                      | Jane Pritchett - Fellowship Chair              | Susan Ayers - Fellowship                |
| Dale Passarella - Property Chair                      | Connie Salter - Christian Life Chair           | Sue Crosland - Christian Life           |
| Kevin Daley - Property                                | Ashley Schroeder - Mission Outreach Evangelism | Tom McMahan - Administration            |
| Frances Stefonich - Mission Outreach Evangelism Chair | Nancy Lindgren - Congregational Care Chair     | Brent Nielson - Congregational Care     |
| <b>Trustees</b>                                       |  |   |
| Tracy Gilbert   | Jerry Barnes                                   | Karen Dixon                             |

Pastor, Rev. Joel Phillips  
 Director of Music, Valetta Fellenbaum  
 Organist, John Dixon  
 Administrative Assistant, Kristen Ferragut

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