

December 7, 2025



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Enter Into Worship

PRELUDE

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
(Bells of Providence and Carole Stockmeier, flute)

arr. Linda Lamb

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The prophet foretold a day when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb.

The Prince of Peace will rule with righteousness and justice.

John the Baptist cried out. "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

We prepare our hearts for the coming Christ, who brings peace to all creation.

Christ's peace passes understanding and guards our hearts and minds.

Come, Lord Jesus, bring your peace to our world and to our hearts.

We Light this candle as a sign of the peace of Christ, which the word cannot give.

SUNG RESPONSE

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

HYMN 133, v. 1, 3, 4

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Please stand, if able)

John F. Wade

*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]*



Service of Lessons and Carols

The Christmas story told through scripture and song

FIRST LESSON

THE PROPHECY - ISAIAH 11:1-4

ANTHEM

Behold a Star from Jacob Shining

Felix Mendelssohn

*Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising:
to reign in glory over the nations.*

*Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day,
beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light!
We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of thy rising.*

SECOND LESSON

MARY'S ANNUNCIATION - LUKE 1:26-38

HYMN 129 V.1, 2

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
(seated)*

15th 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

ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

4th Century
arr. John Dixon

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank, the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraphs, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"*



FOURTH LESSON

THE BIRTH - LUKE 2:1-7

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger

William J. Kirkpatrick
arr. Mack Wilberg



*Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

FIFTH LESSON

THE ANGELS - LUKE 2:8-14

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Gloria, Gloria

Jacques Berthier

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

SIXTH LESSON

THE SHEPHERDS - LUKE 2:15-20

ANTHEM

In The Silence

Craig Courtney

*Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at his birth,
of how the Son of God was born, a Child upon the earth?
Have you ever thought of him at rest upon the hay,
smiling at the faces of the creatures that he made?*

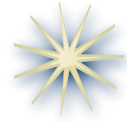
*Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the sight
of shepherds watching in the fields upon a starlit night?
Have you ever thought it strange they left their sheep and ran
to a stall in Bethlehem to kneel before a Lamb?*

*Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the thought
of how it came to pass the Wise Men chose the gifts they brought?
Frankincense for holy ones, and gold for kings, but myrrh?
Why a gift for tombs they brought on this, the Savior's birth?*



SEVENTH LESSON

THE WORD MADE FLESH - JOHN 1:1-14



HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion
(Please stand, if able)

Frank M. Franzen
music from a 17th century hymnal

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*



The Word

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

SERMON

WAITING WITH PEACE

Responding to the Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Carole Stockmeier, flute)

Hal Hopson
arr. Emily Lund

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





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

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



The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Trinidadian Carol

Please join us for worship services!

11:00 am: The 3rd Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 14

Lighting the candle of Joy

Christmas Dinner & Children's Pageant (5:00 pm)

11:00 am: The 4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 21

Lighting the candle of Love

Longest Night Service (6:00 pm)

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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Passing the Light of Christ and Silent Night

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by
The Paynter family, in loving memory of Meredith Paynter*



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

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2025 Session

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Tom McMahan

Christian Life Committee

Connie Salter
Sue Crosland

Congregational Care Committee

Nancy Lindgren
Brent Nielson
Michelle Bolton

Fellowship Committee

Jane Pritchett
Susan Ayers

Mission/Outreach/Evangelism
Committee

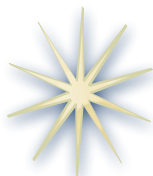
Ashley Schroeder
Chris Veraque

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Julie Bauman

Worship Committee

Matt Clatterbuck
Robie Armbruster



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