

December 21, 2025



## PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

### Enter Into Worship

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

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*  
(Lyle Bagley, cornet)

arr. Molly Ijames

#### Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: God's love was revealed among us when He sent His only Son into the world.

**People: We live in the light of that love and share it with one another.**

Leader: The angel said to Joseph, "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

**People: In Jesus, God's perfect love casts out fear.**

Leader: Love came down at Christmas—love divine, all loves excelling.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts with your perfect love.**

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the love we find in Christ, who renews our strength and restores our hope.

#### Sung Response

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

#### Hymn 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

text by C.F. Alexander, 1848  
music by H.J. Gauntlett, 1849

#### Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we often fail to be obedient. We have not done your will; we have broken your law and resisted your love. We have not loved our neighbors and have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us and free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Confessional Response

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)  
Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)  
Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)*

#### Assurance of Pardon

#### Response to God's Grace

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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.

Hymn 123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
(seated)

text by E.H. Sears, 1848  
music by R.S. Willis, 1850

Anthem

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
[See Hymn 82 for the text]

arr. Donald McCullough

Time with Young Disciples

## The Word

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Waiting with Love

## Responding to the Word

Prayers of Consecration and the 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

*Appalachian Carol*  
(Lyle Bagley, cornet)

arr. Molly Ijames

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

Hymn 137

*He Came Down That We My Have Love*

Cameroon song

## The Sending

Benediction

Benediction Response

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

9th century plainsong

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Postlude

*Riu, riu, chiu*

Spanish carol



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Longest Night Service** - offers a quiet, contemplative space in the midst of a busy holiday season. Through prayers, simple music, Scripture, and candlelight, we gather to rest in Christ's comforting light and hope **tonight, at 6:00 pm.**

**Advent Devotional (Last Week)** - During the season of Advent, a time of welcoming the Christ child into our hearts and home, you may access this devotional by using the link provided online, or you can find a printed copy in the Narthex for your use! For further information, contact **Sue Crosland** at [suecrosland2940@outlook.com](mailto:suecrosland2940@outlook.com).

**Christmas Food Baskets and Giving Tree** - Food and gift items for the Christmas Baskets and Giving Tree are due **today**. If you forgot to bring your items today, you must bring them to the church by 10:00 am on Monday. Thank you to all who participated.

**2026 Offering Envelopes** - are now available in the narthex. Please pick yours up following worship.

**2026 Congregational Meeting** - **On Sunday, January 11**, following worship, for the purpose of electing elders and approving pastoral terms of call.

**Chili Cook-off** - Fellowship will host a "Chili" celebration on **Sunday, January 11**, following worship. Please make your favorite chili recipe and/or cornbread and bring it in for all to share. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the church. For more information, please contact **Jane Pritchett** at [gloriajpritchett@yahoo.com](mailto:gloriajpritchett@yahoo.com).

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary today  
are given to the glory of God by Carolyn Knowles,  
in honor of Dawn Kill and in memory of her husband David.*

*Have a blessed week!*

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

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[music@provpres.org](mailto:music@provpres.org)  
[johnsdixon@aol.com](mailto:johnsdixon@aol.com)  
[office@provpres.org](mailto:office@provpres.org)

2025 Session

Administrative Committee

Elizabeth Carter  
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

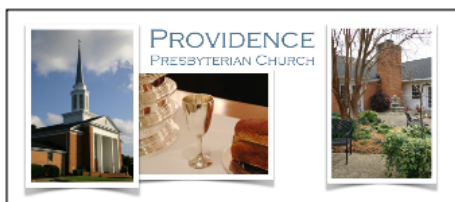
Ashley Schroeder  
Chris Veraque

Property Committee

Kevin Daley  
Julie Bauman

Worship Committee

Matt Clatterbuck  
Robie Armbruster



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