

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Order of Worship*

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Isaiah 40.1-5*

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

**All: A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.**

Minister: Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

**All: And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

HYMN\*

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** | No. 194  
*Stanzas 1, 3, 4, and 5*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

*Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Chorus*

O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Chorus*

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Chorus*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*a responsive reading from Jeremiah 23:5-6*

Minister: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,

**All: And he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

Minister: In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**All: And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"**

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable*

IMMANUEL

From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a virgin's faith;  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race!  
But the skies were filled with the praise of heav'n, shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the Gift of God come down to man at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners, humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain, joys and sorrows that I know so well;  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again—I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal, He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's transgressions, He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, He fights for me, loosing sinners from the claims of hell;  
And with a shout our souls set free—death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the highest throne,  
Interceding for His own beloved till His Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds hope of heaven or the fear of hell;  
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms, giving glory to Immanuel!

## PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration*

Minister: Let us confess our sins before our righteous and holy God.

**All: Heavenly Father, you are a covenant-keeping God, but we are not a covenant-keeping people. Though you have always been faithful to us, we are not always faithful to you. We sin many times each day in our thoughts and with our words and actions. Forgive us, we pray. We thank you for Jesus, who was faithful in all things, keeping the covenant on our behalf. Cause us to see Him as the one great treasure that we seek above all else. Enable us to persevere until that wonderful day when we see our glorious King and bask in the light of His presence. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Romans 3:22 and the Heidelberg Catechism Q. 21*

Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, we have had our sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*Children's Time (10:30 service only)*

*After the intercessory prayer, children in kindergarten through 3rd grade and their teachers may exit the sanctuary through the north doors of the sanctuary. Teachers will return with the children after the sermon. Parents may meet them by the north entrance, or children may join their parents at their seats.*

## SCRIPTURE READING\*

**Galatians 4:1-7**

*(Please see insert.)*

## SERMON

**The "Timekeeper"**

*Rev. Dave Clelland*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S TABLE

*All those who trust in Christ alone for their salvation, are baptized, and belong to a Bible believing church are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper together, feeding on the grace of God by faith. If you have not put your trust in Christ, please allow the elements to pass you by and take this opportunity to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel.*

**A word to parents:** Baptized children are invited to the table after they have made a profession of faith and been received as communing members by the Session of the church to which their parents belong.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN\*

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* | No. 196  
Stanzas 1, 2, and 4

HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

BENEDICTION\*

Minister: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you from this time forth and forevermore.

*Marco Jerez, Flute  
Brent Buemi, Clarinet  
Reese Farnell, Horn*

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**PROVIDENCE**  
*Presbyterian Church*

**Ruling Elders**

Graham Averitt      Jeff Crow      Tom McCabe  
Wes Boyd              John Heath  
Michael Breed        Joshua Kipp

**Deacons**

Dan Bowers            Jack Mechem      David Sibley  
Teddy Chu              Casey Plummer  
T.J. Edwards          Will Schoellkopf

## *Galatians 4:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### SERMON OUTLINE

Lead Question: Who is the timekeeper of all of history?

I. God the Father set the time for the first Advent.

II. God the Father set the stage for it.

A. The Diaspora

B. The Pax Romana

C. The Roman roads

D. Pantheistic and moral confusion

III. God the Father sent the Son as a person.

IV. God the Father set the purpose.

A. Our liberation

B. Our adoption

C. Our inheritance

V. God the Father sets all times.

Answer: Our loving Heavenly Father is the timekeeper of all history.