

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 20, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Genesis 12.1-3

Minister: The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

All: "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;

Minister: I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

All: I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMN*

O Come, All Ye Faithful | No. 208

ADESTE FIDELES

Stanzas 1, 3, and 4

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;

Chorus:

*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 heav'n above;
Glory to God, in the highest; *Chorus*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; *Chorus*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 35 & 36

Minister: What does it mean that Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?

All: It means that the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that He might also become David's true descendant, like His brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.

SONG OF PRAISE

Joy Has Dawned

GETTY AND TOWNEND

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today; incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of Heaven, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Our gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We pray that you would forgive us and by your Holy Spirit, come and work repentance into our hearts. Enable us more and more to see Jesus, the friend of sinners, and to follow him, commune with him, and be conformed to him. Renew us in the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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*

Luke 1.57-80

(Please see insert.)

SERMON

Sunrise

Rev. David Rea

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*

Angels We Have Heard on High | No. 214
Stanzas 1-3

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Chorus:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Chorus

BENEDICTION*

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

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
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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 | |

Luke 1.57-80

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.