

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 12, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

adapted from Isaiah 9

Minister: People of the Living God, come and worship! Worship Jesus Christ the Incarnate King!

All: His Name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Worthy is He of all praise and honor and glory and blessing!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMNS*

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Stanzas 1, 2 and 4

FOREST GREEN

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

from Micah 5

Minister: Christian, from where did the prophets say the Messiah would come?

All: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

SONG OF PRAISE

What Child is This | No. 213

GREENSLEEVES

Stanzas 1-3

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from Streams of Mercy: Prayers of Confession and Celebration

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

All: Heavenly Father, we are a people who often treasure many things over and above our Savior. We are guilty of seeking to find our salvation, joy, and identity in them. When you give us good gifts, we are prone to loving them more than we love you. Father, forgive us. Teach us to delight more in the spiritual riches you have given us in Christ: the wealth of his righteousness given to us; the riches of his grace and kindness poured out on us; the inheritance he has earned for us by his perfect obedience and death. Help us to love and value you above everything else in all creation. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

NEW MEMBER VOWS

Joshua Abaya

Sumner Aldridge

Erin and Zack Aspegren

Elizabeth Aucoin

Amy Bennett

Ka Cotter

Julia Grandon

Michele and Dick Perry

Sally and Warner Stone

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Children's Time

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 1.26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy -- the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

SERMON

Christmas is Coming!

Rev. David Rea

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child | No. 229

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Stanzas 1-3

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undefined, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

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.

Please hold the bread, and we will partake together. Please drink the cup as you receive it.

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.*

During the bread

Instrumental

During the cup

Instrumental

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING 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

BENEDICTION*

Numbers 6:24-26

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Luke 1.39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

SERMON NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mercy Street Angel Tree

Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity to take tags from our Mercy Street Angel Tree and provide gifts for students in their mentoring, leadership and sports programs! We are collecting the wrapped and labeled gifts today. If you have any questions, please email Chris Bennett at chris.bennett@providencedallas.com.

Table Guild Volunteers

If you are a member of PPC and would like to serve on our table guild committee, we would love to have you! Please email Allyson Crow at office@providencedallas.com for more information about this volunteer opportunity.

Christian Education Holiday Break

Our Sunday School classes and Bible studies will resume in January. More details to come after the holidays!

Christmas Eve Children's Choir

Children ages 4 – kindergarten and children in 1st – 5th grades are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve service! Brief rehearsals will be held after worship. Interested 1st – 5th graders will meet with Jonathan and Jenna Smith in room #136 (adult Sunday school room). Children ages 4 – kindergarten will meet with Stefani Rea in room #133 (adult Sunday school room). Please contact Kristi Breed at childrensministry@providencedallas.com with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 4 p.m. Childcare will not be provided as this is a family service.

Gina Ford, Oboe
Jung Choi, Oboe
Kody Harrington, Bassoon

David Rea	<i>Pastor</i>	214.270.1222 david.rea@providencedallas.com
Chris Bennett	<i>Pastor to Young Adults</i>	214.270.1220 chris.bennett@providencedallas.com
Nate Libby	<i>Youth Pastor</i>	214.270.1224 nate.libby@providencedallas.com
Alyson Averitt	<i>Women's Ministry</i>	214.270.1223 alyson.averitt@providencedallas.com
Kristi Breed	<i>Children's Ministry</i>	214.270.1226 childrensministry@providencedallas.com
Allyson Crow	<i>Ministry Coordinator</i>	214.270.1221 office@providencedallas.com
Dorothy Edwards	<i>Church Accountant</i>	214.270.1225 dorothy.edwards@providencedallas.com
Jonathan Smith	<i>Worship Coordinator</i>	214.270.1221 jsmith@cplalaw.com
Jill Smith	<i>Pianist</i>	214.270.1221 jilljonathan1@sbcglobal.net
Dave Clelland	<i>Minister in Residence</i>	214.270.1221 david.clelland@sbcglobal.net



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	