

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 24, 2021

WELCOME

INTROIT

Baby Jesus

Jane Martin

PPC Children's Choir (4 year olds - kindergarten)

Baby Jesus in the manger, see him sleeping on the hay;
Mary sings and gently rocks him, He is born on Christmas Day.
Baby Jesus in the manger, shepherds knelt to worship you;
Wise men came with gifts so precious, and we come to worship, too.

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Isaiah 9.2, 6

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Minister: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder;

All: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CAROL*

Once In Royal David's City | No. 225
Stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 5

IRBY

*Solo: Once in royal David's city stood lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When, like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

1 ²⁶ The God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2 ⁸ And the LORD planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

3 ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will surely not die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*13th century
Arr. Molly Ijames*

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer first revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing,
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.

The prophet foretells the coming Messiah

7 ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

11 ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | No. 194

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 5

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

Refrain: 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 victory over the grave. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

THIRD READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Rev. Jahaziel Cantu

The prophet foretells the birth in Bethlehem

² "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." ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ 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.

⁵ And he will be our peace.

CAROL

Oh, Come, Little Children

arr. Lynn Bailey and

PPC children's choir (1st-5th grade)

Becki Mayo

Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all!
Oh, come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.
The bright star will guide us and show us the way
To Jesus, our Savior, asleep on the hay.

Come, little children, come to Bethlehem.

Come, see the baby lying in a manger.

Come, little children, come to Bethlehem.

Come, see the newborn King!

Come, see the shining star guiding us from afar,
Helping to show us the way.

Oh, come! Oh, come! Oh, come, one and all!

FOURTH READING**Luke 1:26-35; 38**

Rev. Nate Libby

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

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

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

ANTHEM***Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree***

Mark Patterson

*Jenna Smith, solo**from Song of Solomon 2:3*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive:
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

[The text of this carol was written in the 18th century by Richard Hutchins, a Calvinist Baptist preacher. The symbolism of the apple tree is taken from Song of Solomon 2:3: "As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved...with great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste." The imagery simultaneously points back to the tree in Eden and the tree of the Cross, as well as forward to Christ as the ultimate Tree of Life.]

FIFTH READING**Luke 2.1-16**

Rev. Chris Bennett

Jesus is born; the angels announce the birth to the shepherds

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

FIFTH READING (CONT.)

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

CAROL

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry,
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping,
On the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
Cradled there at Bethlehem."*

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?"

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem,
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem."

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

"Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?"

"I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem."

"May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?"

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and Sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem."*

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Chris Bennett

CAROL

Silent Night | No. 210
Stanzas 1, 3 and 4

STILLE NACHT
arr. Dan Forrest

Please remain seated as the ushers light the candles.

*Choir only: Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

SIXTH READING

John 1:1-14

Rev. David Rea

The apostle John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Following the reading, please extinguish your candles when indicated.

CAROL*

Joy to the World | No. 195
Stanzas 1-4

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION*

Minister: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Musicians:

Jennifer Betz, Violin	Nan Zhang, Cello	Reese Farnell, Horn
Rachel McClarty, Violin	Marco Jerez, Flute	Mike McNicholas, Percussion
Dan Sigale, Viola	Brent Buemi, Clarinet	Alison Read, Harp

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PROVIDENCE
Presbyterian Church

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