

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Order of Worship*

DECEMBER 17, 2023

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Luke 1.68; 2.25; 2:30-32*

Minister: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people, for those who have been waiting for the consolation of Israel.

**All:** For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

HYMN\*

*Good Christian Men Rejoice* | No. 207

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice,  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,  
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice,  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice,  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*adapted from Micah 5.1-5*

Minister: Christian, what role does Bethlehem Ephrathah play in God's plan?

**All:** Marshal your troops, for a siege is laid against us. Israel's ruler will be struck on the cheek. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, small among Judah's clans, will bring forth a ruler for Israel, from ancient times. Israel will be abandoned until she who is in labor gives birth, and his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will shepherd his flock in the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the LORD his God. They will live securely, for his greatness will reach the ends of the earth. 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

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

**All: Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Your wisdom in creating the world, and guiding nature and history according to Your will. You skillfully blend joys, sorrows, trials, and blessings in our lives, molding us into the image of Your Son. Yet, Lord, we confess that we often choose to rely on our own wisdom over Yours. We are a people who often grumble about Your providence, and our life circumstances, failing to trust in Your perfect wisdom. Please forgive us. Jesus, we thank You for being the embodiment of divine wisdom. You embraced the Father's will, enduring suffering with obedience. We long for the day when we will join the heavenly chorus, praising the God of wisdom, and the Lamb who was slain for us. Amen.**

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Ephesians 1:7, Romans 4:7*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

## 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\*

*Matthew 1.18-25*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

SERMON

**From Genesis to Jesus Through Joseph**

*Rev. David Rea*

HYMN OF RESPONSE\*

***Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*** | No. 229  
Stanzas 1-3

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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.*

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

***The outer ring is grape juice and the inner rings are wine.***

*During the bread*

***Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor*** | No. 230 QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becomest poor,  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becomest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becomest man,  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav'n-ward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becomest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

*During the cup*

*Instrumental*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## CLOSING HYMN\*

***God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*** | No. 211

GOD REST YE MERRY

*Stanzas 1-3*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

*Refrain:*

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

*Refrain*

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright.  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."

*Refrain*

## BENEDICTION\*

Minister: May the blessing of God Almighty, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you all now and forever.

## SERMON NOTES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Weekly Update*

If you would like to receive our weekly email that includes announcements, information about Bible studies, and details about upcoming events, please email [office@providencedallas.com](mailto:office@providencedallas.com). We would be happy to include you!

### *Year-End Giving*

If you are considering a year-end gift to the church, there are several ways that you can do that:

- You can give online. Visit our website: [www.providencedallas.com](http://www.providencedallas.com), and then click on the “giving” tab. You can set up a one-time or a recurring gift. If you would like to consider covering the processing fee for your gift, you can check the box on that page to do so.
- You can use one of white offering boxes in the lobby just outside the sanctuary on the gray tables. Sunday, December 31 would be the last day to bring a giving check for 2023 tax purposes.
- You can mail a check to the church office. Please make sure it is postmarked on or before December 31 for 2023 tax purposes.  
(10727 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229)
- If you would like to donate a gift of stock, you can contact Dorothy Edwards ([dorothy.edwards@providencedallas.com](mailto:dorothy.edwards@providencedallas.com)), and she can provide the necessary information.
- You can scan the QR code below, and it will take you directly to the giving page on our website.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PPC's Christmas Giving Tree

This year, for our PPC Christmas Giving Tree, we are going to send gifts of support to Grace and Knowledge Academy, a Christian school in Nigeria. (You may remember Jackson and Blessing, missionaries at GKA, from their visit to our church this summer). Nigeria has more children not in school than any other country in the world. GKA provides education, meals, and medical care for children who otherwise would not have access to school. On the Christmas tree, you can find tags that give information about how to give a Christmas gift towards GKA. For more information, you can go to: <https://www.childrensrelief.org/gka>.

### Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year! We will have our normal Lord's Day worship service that morning at 10:10. Childcare for infants to pre-K will be provided as usual, as well as a lesson for kindergarteners – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders during the sermon. We will have our Christmas Eve service later that day at 4 p.m. Childcare will not be provided for that service, as it is a family service. We look forward to this wonderful Sunday and worshipping together!

### Sunday School Break

We are taking a Sunday School break for the Christmas season. Classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 7. More details will be coming after Christmas!

Marco Jerez, *Flute*  
Ebonee Thomas, *Flute*  
Naoko Nakamura, *Harp*

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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	