

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Order of Worship

DECEMBER 24, 2023

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**  
PPC 4 and 5 Year Olds Children's Choir  
Stefani Rea, director

arr. B. Wayne Bisbee

### 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 a 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.

FIRST READING

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

*Leigh and Ryan Friend*

*The Lord promises redemption for His people.*

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

CAROL

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** | No. 194  
*Stanzas 1, 2 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.

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

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*

SECOND READING

**Micah 5:2-5a**

*Brett Owens and*

*The prophet foretells the birth in Bethlehem.*

*Avery Owens*

<sup>2</sup> "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." <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace.

CAROL

**"Sing We Nowell!"**

*T. Taylor*

*PPC 1st-5th Grade Children's Choir*

*Nowell, nowell, nowell we sing!  
Tidings of joyful news we bring!  
Christ has come with us to dwell.  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*Nowell, nowell, nowell we sing!  
Tidings of joyful news we bring!  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father.  
Jesus, Messiah, the Prince of Peace,  
Come to reign forever.*

*The angel Gabriel visits Mary.*

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

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

<sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> 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.

## CAROL

**"Sing We Now of Christmas"***French carol, arr. J. Eilers**PPC Girls Ensemble*

*Sing we now of Christmas, noel, sing we here!  
Hear the wondrous story of that midnight clear.  
Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel!*

*Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest.  
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the Child so blest."  
Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel!*

*From the eastern country came the kings afar.  
Bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.  
Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel!*

*In Bethlehem they found Him, Joseph and Mary mild,  
Seated by the manger, watching the holy Child.  
Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel!*

## FOURTH READING

**Matthew 1:18-23***Jo Cooper and**Mary and Joseph prepare for Jesus' birth.**Charlie Averitt*

<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).

## CAROL

### *The First Noel* Stanzas 1-3

THE FIRST NOWELL

The First Noel, the Angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel!*

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind has bought.

*Refrain*

## FIFTH READING

### **Luke 2:1-16**

*Misty Birdsong and*

*Jesus is born. The angels announce the birth to the shepherds. George Birdsong*

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> 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.

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

<sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

*Rev. David Rea*

CAROL

*Silent Night* | No. 210

STILLE NACHT

*Solo: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

*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.*

***Please remain seated as the ushers light the candles and join in singing on cue.***

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia!"  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

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**

*Becky and Chuck Hendricks*

*The apostle John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.*

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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.

***When directed, please extinguish your candles.***

CAROL

*Joy to the World* | No. 195

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\***

*Philippians 2:5-7*

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  
Karin Parker, Violin  
Dan Sigale, Viola  
Noemie Golubovic, Cello  
Marco Jerez, Flute  
Brent Buemi, Clarinet  
Brandon Aguillon, Horn  
Quiyan Murphy, Percussion

## A Christmas Eve Devotional

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord — Luke 2.11*

There was that ancient promise made on the threshold of Eden to the first sinners of our race, that the Seed of the woman should bruise the Serpent's head; another promise made to the Father of the faithful that in his seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed, and promises uttered by the mouths of prophets and of saints since the world began. Now, the announcement of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds was a declaration that the covenant was fulfilled, that now in the fullness of time God would redeem His word, and the Messiah, who was to be Israel's glory and the world's hope; was now really come. Be glad you heavens, and be joyful O earth, for the Lord has done it, and in mercy has He visited His people. The Lord has not suffered His word to fail, but has fulfilled to His people His promises.

In some senses, our Lord Jesus Christ is more man than Adam. Adam was not born; Adam never had to struggle through the risks and weaknesses of infancy; he knew not the littlenesses of childhood - he was full grown at once. Father Adam could not sympathize with me as a baby and a child. But how manlike is Jesus! He is cradled with us in the manger; He does not begin with us in mid-life, as Adam, but He accompanies us in the pains and feebleness and infirmities of infancy, and He continues with us even to the grave. Beloved, this is such sweet comfort. — Charles Spurgeon

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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	