

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Order of Worship*

DECEMBER 24, 2023

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Luke 1.51-55*

Minister: He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.

**All:** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

HYMN\*

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** | No. 208

ADESTE FIDELES

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,

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb.  
Very God, begotten, not created, *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, in the highest, *Refrain*

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, *Refrain*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*adapted from The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 15-18*

Minister: What kind of savior must we seek?

**All:** We seek the one who embodies truth, righteousness, and surpasses the power of all creation. He must be genuinely human, for the justice of God demands that the same human nature that has sinned also atone for sin. Additionally, He needs to be righteous, as only one who is sinless can make atonement for others. Yet, He must also be truly divine, so that through the strength of His divine nature, He can endure the weight of God's wrath in His human form, thereby securing righteousness for us and restoring life. This is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ!

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *Joy Has Dawned*

Getty, 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: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that too often our trust and affections are misplaced, valuing many things above our Savior. In the midst of your generous blessings, our hearts can wrongly cherish these gifts more than we cherish You. We ask for Your forgiveness. Lead us to find deeper joy in the spiritual treasures You have bestowed upon us through Christ: the gift of His imputed righteousness, the outpouring of His grace and kindness, and the eternal inheritance secured by His perfect obedience and sacrificial death. Guide our hearts to hold the Triune God as our supreme treasure above all else in 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.

## 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 2:8-20*

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON      **From Isaiah Through Shepherds and Angels to Jesus**      *Rev. Robby Rucker*

HYMN OF RESPONSE\*

***Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*** | No. 203

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.      *Refrain*

Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.      *Refrain*

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*  
**From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable**

IMMANUEL

From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a virgin's faith,  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race!  
But the skies were filled with the praise of heav'n, shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the Gift of God come down to man at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners, humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain, joys and sorrows that I know so well,  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again—I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal, He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's transgressions, He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, He fights for me, loosing sinners from the claims of hell,  
And with a shout our souls set free—death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the highest throne,  
Interceding for His own beloved till His Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds hope of heaven or the fear of hell,  
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms, giving glory to Immanuel!

*During the cup*  
*Instrumental*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**CLOSING HYMN\***

***Angels We Have Heard on High* | No. 214**

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.

## 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 Service—this afternoon at 4!

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

### 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!

#### Musicians:

Stuart Stephenson, Trumpet  
Mario Mojica, Trumpet  
David Heyde, Horn  
Tim Owner, Trombone  
Jason Wallace, Tuba  
Quiyan Murphy, Percussion

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<b>David Rea</b>	<i>Pastor</i>	214.270.1222		david.rea@providencedallas.com
<b>Chris Bennett</b>	<i>Pastor to Young Adults</i>	214.270.1220		chris.bennett@providencedallas.com
<b>Nate Libby</b>	<i>Youth Pastor</i>	214.270.1224		nate.libby@providencedallas.com
<b>Robby Rucker</b>	<i>Director of Shepherding &amp; Worship</i>	214.270.1221		robby@providencedallas.com
<b>Alyson Averitt</b>	<i>Women's Ministry</i>	214.270.1223		alyson.averitt@providencedallas.com
<b>Kristi Breed</b>	<i>Children's Ministry</i>	214.270.1226		childrensministry@providencedallas.com
<b>Allyson Crow</b>	<i>Ministry Coordinator</i>	214.270.1221		office@providencedallas.com
<b>Dorothy Edwards</b>	<i>Church Accountant</i>	214.270.1225		dorothy.edwards@providencedallas.com
<b>Jonathan Smith</b>	<i>Worship Coordinator</i>	214.270.1221		jsmith@cplalaw.com
<b>Jill Smith</b>	<i>Pianist</i>	214.270.1221		jilljonathan1@sbcglobal.net
<b>Dave Clelland</b>	<i>Minister in Residence</i>	214.270.1221		david.clelland@sbcglobal.net
<b>Olivia Costanza</b>	<i>Ministry Intern</i>	214.270.1221		oliviacostanza48@gmail.com
<b>Chris Coleman</b>	<i>Ministry Intern</i>	214.270.1221		colemanchristopher110@gmail.com

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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	