

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Order of Worship*

DECEMBER 31, 2023

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Psalm 111*

Minister: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

**All: He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.**

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

### HYMN\*

***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!

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

*from John 12:21; Philippians 3:10; Galatians 2:20*

Minister: As we embark on this new year, what is our deepest desire?

**All: Our deepest desire is spoken through the ages: 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' We long to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and share in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death. We live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *Across the Lands*

Getty

You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began.  
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by Your hand.  
All creation holds together by the power of Your voice.  
Let the skies declare Your glory; let the land and seas rejoice!

*Chorus: You're the Author of creation; You're the Lord of ev'ry man;  
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Yet You left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,  
And exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.  
With a prayer You fed the hungry; with a word You calmed the sea;  
Yet how silently You suffered that the guilty may go free!

*Chorus*

With a shout You rose victorious, wresting vict'ry from the grave,  
And ascended into heaven, leading captives in Your way.  
Now You stand before the Father, interceding for Your own;  
From each tribe and tongue and nation, You are leading sinners home!

*Chorus*

## PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

**All:**     **Heavenly Father, we praise you for your wondrous grace and love in sending Jesus to save us. Yet we find that sin continues to have great power over us in our daily lives. Every day we struggle to put the love of others above our love of self. Every day we sin against you in thought, word and deed. We thank you for Jesus, who gave up the glory of heaven to redeem and rescue a sinful people like us. We pray that more and more, our hearts would be changed and sanctified by the grace of God in Christ Jesus. In His matchless name, we pray. Amen.**

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

## 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.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV)

## SERMON

## Foe, Fool, Friend or Follower

Rev. Dave Clelland

## HYMN OF RESPONSE\*

*In Christ Alone*

Getty, Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song,  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all — here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,  
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid — here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death — this is the pow’r of Christ in me,  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand,  
Till He returns or calls me home — here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.

## 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*

***There is a Higher Throne***

Getty

There is a higher throne than all this world has known,  
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.  
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb,  
Believing hearts find promised grace - salvation comes.

*Refrain: Hear heaven's voices sing, their thund'rous anthem rings  
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies. Their praises rise.  
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are  
To God our King, who reigns on high forevermore.*

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;  
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.  
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King, we'll reign with Him.

*Refrain*

*During the cup*

*Instrumental*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### CLOSING HYMN\*

***As with Gladness Men of Old*** | No. 226  
*Stanzas 1-3*

DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,  
There to bend the knee before, him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

### 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.

## SERMON OUTLINE

Lead question: What will Christ's coming show you to be?

I. Perhaps a Foe - Herod.

II. Maybe a Fool - Sanhedrin.

III. Hopefully a Friend and a Follower - Wise Men.

Your question: Next Christmas He is coming for his Friends and Followers.  
Which will you be?

## SERMON NOTES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday School Break

Sunday School classes for all ages will resume next Sunday, January 7, at 9 a.m. More details to come this week!

### 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. Today 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.



Stephen Nielson, piano

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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	