

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Order of Worship*

JANUARY 7, 2024

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Matthew 11.28-29*

Minister: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.

**All: For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION\*

HYMN\*

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing | No. 302*

MADRID

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice,  
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend,  
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*from Isaiah 40.1-5*

Minister: Christian, for whom did John the Baptist prepare the way?

**All:**     **A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low, the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

*Boswell, Papa*

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.  
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come!  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man.  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

## PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration*

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

**All:** Heavenly Father, we praise you for your graciousness, and we thank you for your everlasting promise to work all things for our good and your own glory. And yet we are a people who frequently struggle with malice, hypocrisy, envy, deceit, and slander. In our minds we often rehearse the sins and weaknesses of others, as we try to justify ourselves in self-righteousness. Father, forgive us. We thank you for the blood of Christ, which cleanses us from all sin. Holy Spirit of the living God, make Christ appear excellent to us and beautiful in our eyes as we worship, as we work, and as we live. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Psalm 32:5*

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, "I will confess my transgression to the LORD. And You did forgive the guilt of my sin."

## 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\*

### **John 1.1-14**

<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 with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

SCRIPTURE READING\* (CONT.)

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SERMON

**The Word Became Flesh**

*Rev. Nate Libby*

HYMN OF RESPONSE\*

*I Will Glory in My Redeemer*

I will glory in my Redeemer whose priceless blood has ransomed me.  
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails and hung Him on that judgment tree.  
I will glory in my Redeemer who crushed the pow'r of sin and death,  
My only Savior before the Holy Judge, The Lamb who is my righteousness,  
The Lamb who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer. My life He bought, my love He owns.  
I have no longings for another, I'm satisfied in Him alone.  
I will glory in my Redeemer, His faithfulness, my standing place,  
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me, My feet are firm, held by His grace,  
My feet are firm, held by His grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer who carries me on eagle's wings.  
He crowns my life with loving kindness, His triumph song I'll ever sing.  
I will glory in my Redeemer who waits for me at gates of gold  
And when He calls me it will be paradise, His face forever to behold,  
His face forever to behold.

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 becamest 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 becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest 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 becamest 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\***

***Jesus Is Mine***

*Merker, Kauflin, and Getty*

Fade, fade, each earthly joy, Jesus is mine.  
Stronger than fleeting hopes, Jesus is mine.  
Dark is the wilderness, earth has no resting place,  
Jesus alone can bless; Jesus is mine.

**CLOSING HYMN\* (CONT.)**

In days of fragile peace, Jesus is mine.  
Through tearful nights of grief, Jesus is mine.  
His voice commands the storm, his presence stills my soul,  
He will sustain my hope, Jesus is mine.

*Refrain: Jesus is mine, Jesus is mine,  
When all else fails, He still remains, Jesus is mine.*

When on that final day, Jesus is mine,  
Before his radiant face, Jesus is mine.  
Safe in his arms I'll cling, praising my Savior King,  
Forevermore I'll sing: "Jesus is mine."

*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.