

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 1, 2024

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Isaiah 40.1-5

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the LORD. Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

All: 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 mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMN*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | No. 194

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1, 3 and 5

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny,
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Isaiah 9.6-7

Minister: How does the Old Testament Gospel foretell the promises we find in Christ?

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government, and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it, with justice and with righteousness, from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SONG OF PRAISE

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

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Heavenly Father, You are a covenant-keeping God, but we are not a covenant-keeping people. Though You have always been faithful to us, we have not been faithful to You. Each day, we sin in our thoughts, words, and actions. Forgive us, we pray. We thank You for the advent of Jesus, who came in perfect righteousness and faithfulness to fulfill the covenant on behalf. Help us to see Him as our greatest treasure, the one we seek above all else. Strengthen us to persevere until that glorious day when He comes again, and we bask in the light of His presence forever. In the name of Jesus, 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.

SCRIPTURE READING*

Luke 1.1-17

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous -- to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (NIV)

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | No. 196

HYFRYDOL

Stanzas 1, 2, and 4

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free,
 From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
 Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear,
 Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
 O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
 "Go to him, your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone,
 By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

Townend

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*

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 earth, 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*

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.