

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 15, 2024

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Luke 1:68; 2:25; 2:30-32

Minister: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people, for those who have been waiting for the consolation of Israel.

All: For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.

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 Micah 5.1-5

Minister: Christian, what does Bethlehem Ephrathah reveal about the coming of Israel's ruler?

All: Marshal your troops, for a siege is laid against us. Israel's ruler will be struck on the cheek. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, small among Judah's clans, will bring forth a ruler for Israel, from ancient times. Israel will be abandoned until she who is in labor gives birth, and his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will shepherd his flock in the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the LORD his God. They will live securely, for his greatness will reach the ends of the earth. He will be their peace.

SONG OF PRAISE

What Child is This | No. 213

GREENSLEEVES

Stanzas 1-3

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Dear Lord, we have other gods before us.
We desire many things more than You.
We do not worship Your name as we ought to.
We do not fully cherish our Sabbath rest in Christ.
We do not honor our father and our mother.
We have murder on our tongues and in our hearts.
We are not faithful.
We take what is not ours.
We do not always tell the truth.
We sinfully want what other people have.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 3:22 and the Heidelberg Catechism Q. 21

Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, we have had our sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.

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 1.39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

SERMON

A Thrill of Hope

Rev. Chris Bennett

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Once In Royal David's City | No. 225

IRBY

Stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 5

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.

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*

***Good Christian Men Rejoice* | No. 207**

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice,
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice,
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice,
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

BENEDICTION*

Minister: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you from this time forth and forevermore.