

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 24, 2024

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

PPC Children's Choir (preschool – 1st grade)

led by Alyson and Graham Averitt

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,

All: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Minister: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

All: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

CAROL*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | No. 194

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1, 4 and 5

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

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet foretells the coming Messiah.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

“Christmas Joy”

PPC Children’s Choir

*O come, rejoice, come lift your voice,
For Christmastime is here.*

*O come, rejoice, come lift your voice
On this special time of year.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, Israel.*

*O come, rejoice, come lift your voice
For Christmastime is here.*

*O come, rejoice, come lift your voice,
Make the message loud and clear.
Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.*

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

*O come, rejoice, come lift your voice,
For Christmastime is here.*

*O come, rejoice, come lift your voice,
For the day of joy is near.
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

And heaven and nature sing.

*O come rejoice, lift up your voice
With joy to the world!*

SECOND READING

Bill and Pam Franklin

Isaiah 7:14, 11:1-4a, 6

The prophet foretells the child born as mighty God.

7¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

11¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

SONG

“Immanuel”

Michael Card

Jenna Smith, soloist

*Solo: A sign shall be given: a virgin will conceive
A human baby bearing undiminished deity,
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see,
That hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.*

*Immanuel, our God is with us.
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?
Our God is with us: Immanuel.*

*For all those who live in the shadow of death
A glorious light has dawned;
For all those who stumble in the darkness
Behold your light has come.*

SONG (CONT.)

**Congregation: Immanuel, our God is with us.
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?
Our God is with us: Immanuel.**

*So what will be your answer? Oh, will you hear the call
Of Him who did not spare His son, but gave him for us all?
On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height
Could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.*

**Congregation: Immanuel, our God is with us.
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?
Our God is with us: Immanuel.**

Repeat Refrain

THIRD READING

Leslie McCabe and Ka Cotter

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy -- the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

SONG

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.

FOURTH READING

Beth and John Jendricks

Matthew 1:18-23

Mary and Joseph prepare for Jesus' birth.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel!" (which means, God with us).

CAROL

Wexford Carol
Jenna Smith, soloist

trad. Irish
arr. Douglas Mears

*Good people all, this Christmastide, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angel said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful hearts and joyful mind the shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid and by His side the virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of Life who came on earth to end all strife.*

*Good people all, this Christmastide, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.*

FIFTH READING

Emily Varghese and Benji Varghese

Luke 2:1-16

Jesus is born. The angels announce the birth to the shepherds.

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

FIFTH READING (CONT.)

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those
on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. David Rea

CAROL

***Silent Night* | No. 210**

STILLE NACHT

Stanzas 1, 3 and 4

Please remain seated as the ushers light the candles and join in singing on cue.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,
‘Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing:
“Alleluia” to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

John 1:1-14

The apostle John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Following the reading, please extinguish your candle when indicated.

CAROL****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.

CAROL* (CONT.)

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

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

BENEDICTION

from Psalm 96; Luke 2

Minister: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for He comes.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men! Amen!