

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 29, 2024

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Isaiah 9.2, 60.1-2

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

All: 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.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

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!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

Minister: Christian, as we begin this new year, what ought to be our greatest 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

As with Gladness Men of Old | No. 226

DIX

Stanzas 1-3

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.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from The Valley of Vision

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

All: O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn and quick to forget. I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, and my sullied conscience. I am blind while your grace shines around me: take the scales from my eyes and help me to repent of my unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study thee, meditate on thee, and gaze on thee. Enable me, by your Spirit, to grow in grace so that there may be more fervor in my devotion and more constancy in my zeal. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 2:22-40

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

SCRIPTURE READING* (CONT.)

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

SERMON

The Consolation of Israel

Mr. Chris Coleman

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

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

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | No. 193

PICARDY

Stanzas 1, 2 and 4

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand,
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

At his feet the six winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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*

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.