

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 24, 2025

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

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

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 AND ADORATION*

*CAROL

Once In Royal David's City

IRBY

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.

FIRST READING

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

David Lee & Olivia Lee

The prophet foretells the virgin birth of Immanuel.

7 ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

11 ¹ 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 the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

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

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

Women: 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.

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

Men: 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.

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

SECOND READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

Sadie Norfleet & Jack Norfleet

The prophet foretells the coming Messiah.

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the Lord's hand

double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

SONG

"Come to the Manger"

Milton LeDoux

PPC Children's Choir (2nd - 5th grade)

Come to the Manger, everybody come;

See the newborn Baby;

Worship the Lord, then, everybody go tell them Christ is born.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

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

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Tell them Christ is born.

THIRD READING

Matthew 1:18-23

T.J. Edwards & James Edwards

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).

SONG

"I Wonder as I Wander"

Appalachian folk carol

Jenna Smith, soloist

collected by John Jacob Niles

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all;
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:1-16

Ka Cotter & Margie McCabe

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.

FOURTH READING (CONT.)

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, 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.

***CAROL**

The First Noel

FIRST NOWELL

Arr. Dwight Bigler

Women: The First Noel, the Angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!

Men: They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!

All: Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. David Rea

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

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

SONG

“Still, Still, Still”

Jenna Smith, soloist

*Austrian carol
arr. Norman Luboff*

*Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.*

CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

*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, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!”
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*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!*

FIFTH READING

John 1:1-14

Brandt Wright & Sophie Wright

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Arr. Dan Forrest

Men: 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.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Women: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

All: **Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

BENEDICTION

from Luke 2

Minister: For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

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