

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 28, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 & Luke 2:10-11

Minister: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Do not be afraid! We bring you good news of great joy for all people: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord! Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with justice and righteousness forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

Minister: As we approach a new year, what ought we to desire above all else?

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

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

All: Heavenly Father, we confess that we are easily distracted and often turn aside from Your ways. The world clamors for our attention, and we are quick to follow our sinful hearts, chasing fleeting pleasures and empty promises. Too often we pursue our own desires rather than living for Your kingdom and Your glory. We thank You, Lord Jesus, that You did not cling to Your own comfort, but left the riches of heaven to enter our world. Change our selfish hearts, we pray. Fill us with love and gratitude, that following You would be our greatest joy and delight. 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.

OFFERINGS

Online giving is available at any time at providencedallas.givingfire.com or using the QR code on the back of the bulletin. You may also place offerings in the white boxes on the lobby tables.

SCRIPTURE READING*

Matthew 2.1-12

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

SCRIPTURE READING* (CONT.)

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

SERMON

Where Is the King?

Rev. David Rea

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

In Christ Alone

Getty, Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song,
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all —
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid —
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

HYMN OF RESPONSE* (CONT.)

No guilt in life, no fear in death —
This is the pow'r of Christ in me,
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand,
Till He returns or calls me home —
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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.

During the bread (cont.)

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*

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. *Refrain*

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*

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.