

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

DECEMBER 7, 2025

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Isaiah 40.1-5

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the LORD. Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

All: Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low. The rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMN*

Angels We Have Heard on High | No. 214

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Chorus: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? *Chorus*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Chorus*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

from Isaiah 9.6-7

Minister: How does the Old Testament Gospel foretell the promises we find in Christ?

All: 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. 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.

SONG OF PRAISE

Away in a Manger | No. 205

CRADLE SONG

Stanzas 1-3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Heavenly Father, you know our hearts. You know that, although we confess your sovereign care over our lives, we too often live as practical atheists – boasting in our accomplishments, despairing in our failures, and doubting during periods of uncertainty and suffering. Forgive us, we pray, and renew us in the Holy Spirit to live as your children, knowing that our security lies only in being held in the palm of your hand. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 2:8-9

Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ: For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

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*

Malachi 3.1-12

¹ “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

SCRIPTURE READING* (CONT.)

⁶ “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse-- your whole nation-- because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty. (NIV)

SERMON

The God Who Comes Near

Rev. David Rea

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

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!

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*

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.

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.

Mark 1.1-5

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”-- ³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” ⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. (NIV)