

PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2025

Welcome

RE Tom Sell

Lighting of the Christ Advent Candle

Isaiah 9:1-7

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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.

Prelude

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

²**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶**Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²**let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

*Congregation Standing ◦ **Bold body of text recited together.**

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Most Scripture References from: *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)*
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* HYMN 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: Latin hymn, attributed to John Francis Wade, 1751; Translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841. Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751.

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb:
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels;
 ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 glo - ry to God, in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

* PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

Rev. John D. Bennett

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14

F F/C F/A F F/C C F/A Am Bb Gm/Bb F/C C F

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteous-ness!

F/C Dm F/C G/B Am G7/B C C/E Fmaj7 G7 C

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

F/A C7/E F F/C C F/A C7/E F F/C C

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'In-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

Bb Gm/Bb D7 Gm C7/Bb F/A F F/C C F

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Bb Gm D Gm C/E C7/Bb F/A F F/C C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

* HYMN 162

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 346-413; Translated by John Mason Neal, 1854 and Henry W. Baker, 1859.
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 12th Century.

*In the beginning was the Word... The Word was made flesh ... and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father. John 1:1, 14 KJV*



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
3. This is He whom heav'ntaught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; an - gel hosts, His prais - es sing;
5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets promised in their faith - ful word;
all do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him, and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed His
now He shines, the long - ex - pec - ted; let cre - a - tion
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he shall be their peace.

HYMN

Ensemble
Once in Royal David's City

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HOMILY

Rev. John D. Bennett

PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(During the closing hymn)

*** CLOSING HYMN 210**

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818. Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1818.

*They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying
in the manger. Luke 2:16*

Capo III

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - dant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

*** BENEDICTION**



Candles will be distributed as congregants enter the sanctuary.

During the first stanza of *Silent Night! Holy Night!*, ushers will walk along the middle aisle and light candles. Congregants can then pass their light down the row for the remainder of the hymn.

The Reason for the Advent Season

Advent, from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival” is a long-celebrated season of the Western Church dating back to the fourth century. The earliest official mention of Advent comes at the Council of Sargossa (AD 380). By the fifth and sixth centuries, we find evidence of Advent sermon series being preached. For the present day, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30. It ends on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Very early on in the West, the season was focused on the first Advent of Christ. Later it would come to have a twin focus. The Latin word *adventus* was a translation of the Greek *parousia* – a word used for both the coming of Christ in human flesh, as well as his return.

For the first two weeks of Advent, the church would have customarily reflected on the Second Coming of Christ. Christians would chasten their hearts, confess their sins, and spend time hoping for the quick return of the Lord. The last two weeks of Advent would then transition to focus on the first *parousia*, Christ in the manger.

Traditionally, the colors of the candles represent a specific theme and focus for that particular week. The three purple candles symbolize the royalty of the newborn king while anticipating the suffering that he would endure. The pink or rose candle highlights the transition in the third week to the theme of joy and expectation of the Christ child. In addition, these four are arranged around the white candle. This center light is to remind the worshipper that Christ was without sin and lived in complete obedience to God and the Law.

– Adapted from *The Gospel Coalition*

Merry Christmas!

Providence Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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Purpose Statement

Providence Presbyterian Church aims to worship and serve the one true and living God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people in Lubbock, West Texas, and the world. In doing this we will encourage and equip believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to grow in our love for one another and our neighbors; all the while endeavoring to know, live, and speak the love, joy, peace, hope, and truth of God's word revealed to us in the Scriptures.

The Session

(elders@providencepca.org)

John D. Bennett, *Teaching Elder*
Dr. Jeremy Dalton, *Ruling Elder*
Peter Griffith, Sr., *Ruling Elder*
Chris Kramedjian, *Ruling Elder*
Dr. Brian Nicholson, *Ruling Elder*
Tom Sell, *Ruling Elder (On Sabbatical)*

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Providence Lay Ministry Teams Leadership

Christian Education Team Jeremy Dalton

Hospitality Team Alisha Donet, Leader
Assistants: Tori Donet ◦ Kayla Harwood

Missions Team Rebecca Mulkey ◦ Brenda Hayes

Music Team Matthew and Allison Smith

Women's Ministry Team Anne Griffith ◦ Kyla Sell
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Please contact Jeffrey Clendennen

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*for more information on serving on one of these teams
or with other ministry opportunities.*

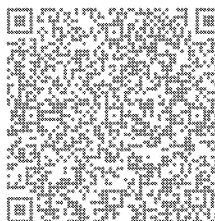
General information: admin@providencepca.org

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Providence Presbyterian Church

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