



PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

THE LORD'S DAY

December 8, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

RE Tom Sell

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Preparation for Worship

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 85:8-13

⁸Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 195**

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

Words: Based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719. Tune: ANTIOCH, George Frederick Handel, 1742; arranged by Lowell Mason, 1836.

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

*** PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION**

Rev. John D. Bennett

O Lord, I do not deserve a glimpse of heaven,
 and I am unable with my works to redeem myself
 from sin, death, the devil, and hell.
 Nevertheless, you have given me your Son, Jesus Christ,
 who is far more precious and dear than heaven,
 and much stronger than sin, death, the devil, and hell.
 For this I rejoice, praise, and thank you, O God.
 Without cost and out of pure grace you have given me
 this boundless blessing in your dear Son.
 Through him you take sin, death, and hell from me,
 and do grant me all that belongs to him. – Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE

Joel 2:12-13

Minister: *For all who have confessed their sins and have fled to Christ for mercy,
 hear this word of assurance:*

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

* HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 230

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Words: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972. Tune: QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE, French carol melody.

1. 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 becomes poor.
2. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
 Stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
 Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.
3. 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.

Question 115: *What does it mean to pray, "Hallowed be thy name"?*

Answer: **We are asking God to help us and others to respect and honor him.**

Question 116: *What is the second petition?*

Answer: **The second petition is "Thy kingdom come."**

Question 117: *What does it mean to pray, "Thy kingdom come"?*

Answer: **We are asking God to bring more and more people to hear, believe and obey his gospel.**

* CONFSSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scripture,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
And we believe in one holy catholic[†] and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. – Amen.**

RESPONDING TO THE LORD WITH HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

[†]The word "Catholic" means *universal* or *whole*.
It is not specifically referring to the Roman church, but all believers throughout the world.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM TO MARION LUCIA CAMPBELL

Covenant Promises

For to you is this promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee. Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house.

(Acts 2:39; Genesis 17:7; Acts 16:31; BCO 56-4)

HYMN OF BAPTISM 457

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758. Tune: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

1. Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

RE Jeremy Dalton

**Our Father, who art in Heaven hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. – Amen.**

Interlude

¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

⁷Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

¹³And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Minister: *The Word of the Lord!*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE 225**

Once in David's Royal City

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848; Tune: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849.

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.
4. 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.
5. 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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please see *Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence* on page 10 of the bulletin.

The Great Thanksgiving‡

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts!*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: *Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times and in all places give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, your Word through whom you made all things, and sent to be our Savior, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured the cross, so as to break the bonds of death and bring forth the resurrection. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord Most High!**

‡*The Great Thanksgiving*, includes the *Sursum Corda* (Latin for "lift up your hearts," which dates back to the early 3rd century). The *Sursum Corda* calls us to be heavenly minded while we are summoned into the Lord's presence. Variations of this first phrase can be found in the liturgies of Augustine, Calvin, Knox, and Bucer. Being spiritually lifted into the throne room of Christ, we join the angels in worship, proclaiming "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8).

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
3. The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped, and in the manger found him, as angel heralds said.
4. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
5. O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

*** DOXOLOGY**

Tune: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below:
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*** BENEDICTION**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Minister: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

All hymns are for congregational singing. ◦ All music copied by permission of CCLI #2510011

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

- ❖ Classes for all ages are regularly available. Fall Adult Sunday School classes include:
 - **Study of Ecclesiastes** (Room 11): Jeremy Dalton, Teacher
 - **Westminster Confession of Faith** (Room 10): Ronnie Booth, Teacher
 - **From Dust to Glory** (Room 9): Larry Lafreniere, Teacher

Note: Next Sunday, December 15, will be the last Sunday for the fall Sunday School classes.

Events This Week

- ❖ **Morning Men's Group** meets Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ **Community Groups** meet on today, December 8, and Wednesday, December 11.
- ❖ **Covenant Kids** meet Wednesday, December 11, from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Covenant Kids will sing during next Sunday's service.
- ❖ **Young Professionals Dinner:** Friday, December 13, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Clint and Alexis Bingham's home, 3603 43rd Street. Contact Clint for more information, 806-891-3725.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Youth Christmas Party:** Wednesday, December 18, Tom and Kyla Sell's Home, 2915 19th Street
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Service:** Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Special Advent Music

- ❖ If you would like to use your musical gifts during advent, please join us for rehearsal today for our seasonal musical offering on Sunday, December 22.

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Texas Tech

- ❖ Davis Sweatt, davis.sweatt@ruf.org, is the campus minister. Raegan Watkins is the RUF intern.

Providence Weekly

- ❖ To receive the weekly Providence email newsletter, go to the bottom of the Home page at the website (www.providencepca.org) and enter your email to subscribe.

Meal Ministry

- ❖ **Shared Joy, Shared Pain, Shared Meal:** The women of Providence bring meals to people in the church as needed, such as births, deaths, hospitalizations, and illnesses. If you can provide meals or if you need a meal, contact Wendy Wilkerson, WendyInIdalou@gmail.com, or 806-831-5447, Meal requests will be registered at: www.TakeThemAMeal.com.

Nursery

- ... **is available during worship for children 5 and under**, although babies and children are welcomed and valued in our service. However, in order to facilitate a restful and reverent worship for all who enter, parents are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources we have available for children who become noisy or fussy.

- (1) A cry room with a live stream of the service is set up in Room 1, across the hall from the nursery, located at the west side of the building.
- (2) Snacks and coloring pages are located along the back wall of the sanctuary.

Feel free to ask an usher or congregant for help in locating any of these helpful resources.

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

December 1 ~ Hope ♦ December 8 ~ Peace

December 15 ~ Joy ♦ December 22 ~ Love

December 24 ~ Christ

Ushers

❖ *Serving today*

- Brandon Mulkey ◦ TJ Harwood
Michael Landess ◦ Tom Sell

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- Levi Myers ◦ John Haley
Larry LaFreniere ◦ Peter Griffith

Nursery

❖ *Serving today*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Courtney Steele ◦ Emma Steele ◦ Talitha Dalton
Erin Herendeen ◦ Lane Steele ◦ Catelyn Steele

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Betty Bingham ◦ Missy Landess ◦ Alisha Donet
Elizabeth Stewart ◦ Georgia Mulkey ◦ Caleb Bredemeyer

Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence

The Lord Jesus Christ is present with us by his Spirit at this table, so in His name we invite everyone who trusts Him for salvation and is a baptized member in a church which faithfully proclaims His gospel. However, we are warned not to partake if you do not trust Him or if you are living in unrepentant sin; instead, please let the bread and the cup pass by (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Rather, turn to Him in repentance and faith, so you may join in this glad and holy celebration of His saving death and resurrection life for all His people. Children who have made a public profession of faith and been received as members by the leadership of their church are also invited to the table. Children who have not yet made such a profession are asked to let the bread and the cup pass. We use wine in the Supper, but the outer ring of the tray is grape juice; we also hold the elements until everyone is served. Let us rejoice together in Him!

Prayers of Meditation for Those Not Participating in Communion

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and show me the reality of who You are. – Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Heavenly Father, I admit that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through Your Son Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You that He lived the life I should have lived, and paid the debt and punishment I deserved. Receive me now for His sake. I turn from my sins and receive Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. – Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, help me to look to You as the fulfillment of all my needs, and to turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. – Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow You in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people, and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. – Amen.

ESV Daily Bible Reading Plan for Week of December 8-14, 2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Psalms/Wisdom</i>	<i>Pentateuch/History</i>	<i>Chronicles/Prophets</i>	<i>Gospels/Epistles</i>
12/08	Psalm 128	Job 14	Isaiah 36-37	2 John
12/09	Psalm 129	Job 15	Isaiah 38	3 John
12/10	Psalm 130	Job 16-17	Isaiah 39	Jude
12/11	Psalm 131	Job 18	Isaiah 40	Revelation 1
12/12	Psalm 132	Job 19	Isaiah 41	Revelation 2
12/13	Psalm 133	Job 20	Isaiah 42	Revelation 3
12/14	Psalm 134	Job 21	Isaiah 43:1 - 44:5	Revelation 4

Sermon Notes

Providence Presbyterian Church (PCA)

3301 34th Street • Lubbock, Texas 79410 • 806-516-5745 • www.providencepca.org

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*

Brandon Mulkey, *Ruling Elder (on Sabbatical)*

Deacons

(deacons@providencepca.org)

Ben Donet
David Lawson
Levi Myers
Shane Shepherd
Aaron Stewart
Matthew Smith (*on Sabbatical*)

Providence Staff

John Bennett, Senior Pastor

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Beth Herring, Administrative Assistant

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Rachel Myers, Financial Administrator

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Valerye Sweatt, Ministry Coordinator

ministries@providencepca.org

Davis Sweatt, RUF Campus Minister

davis.sweatt@ruf.org

Jeffrey Clendennen,

Pastoral Intern and Youth Director

jeffrey.clendennen@providencepca.org

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 Melynn Henry ◦ Kyla Sell ◦
womensministry@providencepca.org

*To serve on one of these teams,
please contact the Ministry Coordinator.*

General information:

admin@providencepca.org

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