



PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

THE LORD'S DAY

December 14, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

RE Tom Sell

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Preparation for Worship

*** CALL TO WORSHIP - RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 92:1-4

A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath.

- ¹It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
²to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
³to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
⁴For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 203**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840.

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
2. 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!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
3. Hail! the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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 son of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Martin Luther[†]

O Father, receive again the thing which you have created.
O Son, receive the thing which you have governed.
O Holy Spirit, fetch the thing which you so bountifully have preserved.
Three persons and one very God, I entreat you:
remember not my offenses forever.
For I cry, Lord God and Father, mercy.
Lord God Son, mercy.
Lord God Holy Spirit, mercy. – Amen

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE

Ephesians 1:3-7

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

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

* HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 221

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Words: German Hymn, ca. 1500. Tune: ES IST EIN ROß ENTSPRUNGEN, German Melody, 15th Century.

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.

[†]Martin Luther (1483-1546): Leading voice of the Protestant Reformation due to his insistence on the biblical doctrine of justification by faith alone.

*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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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.

*** CHILDREN'S CATECHISM**

From: First Catechism ~ Teaching Children Bible Truths

Question 126: *How many sacraments are there?*

Answer: **Two.**

Question 127: *What are they?*

Answer: **Baptism and the Lord's Supper.**

Question 128: *Who appointed these sacraments?*

Answer: **The Lord Jesus Christ.**

*** CONFESSION OF FAITH**

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8.1

**It pleased God, in his eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son,
to be the Mediator between God and man,
the Prophet, Priest, and King,
the Head and Savior of his church,
the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world:
unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed,
and to be by him in time redeemed,
called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.**

RESPONDING TO THE LORD WITH HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

**Covenant Kids
O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Membership Vows (PCA BCO 57-5)

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Tucker Hale Timmons ◦ Hudson Keith Timmons
Garner Tate Timmons ◦ Arden Kate Timmons

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)

Covenant Vows for Parents

- Do you acknowledge your family's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you claim God's covenant promises in their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
- Do you now unreservedly dedicate your family to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Covenant Vow for Congregation

- Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this family?

BAPTISMAL HYMN 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 THE LORD'S PRAYER

RE Dr. 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

SERMON

Rev. John D. Bennett

Isaiah 50:4-11

⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

¹⁰Who among you fears the Lord
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the Lord
and rely on his God.

¹¹Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
who equip yourselves with burning torches!
Walk by the light of your fire,
and by the torches that you have kindled!
This you have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.

Minister: *The Word of the Lord!*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE**

Joy Has Dawned upon the World

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, Copyright © 2004 Thankyou Music

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation –
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love – Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold – a King is born today, Incense – God is with us,
Myrrh – His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.
4. Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

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 indeed good and right and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with angels, and archangels, and with 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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: *The gifts of God for the people of God.*

*Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.*

The Invitation to the Lord's Table†

The Words of Institution

†Ushers will escort congregants to the communion table during the **Hymn of Communion**. Please take the elements back to your seat. After **The Words of Institution**, we will partake together.

‡*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. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Refrain: Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
2. Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies:
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
Refrain
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say – what's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?
Refrain
4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Savior's birth."
Refrain
5. Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!
Refrain
6. Teach, O teach us, holy child, by thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility.
Refrain

*** DOXOLOGY**Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (*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**

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴[May] the Lord bless you and keep you;
²⁵the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
²⁶the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Sunday School

- ❖ This was the last Sunday School for the fall. Classes will resume in January.

Joint Sunday School: Matt Megill, missionary to West Africa, made a presentation on his work this morning. Matt will speak briefly at the beginning of the worship service.

Events This Week

- ❖ **Morning Men's Group** meets Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. This will be the last meeting until January.
- ❖ **Youth Christmas Party:** Wednesday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Christmas Eve Service:** Wednesday, December 24, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Providence Missions Conference:** Friday, January 30 to Sunday, February 1, 2026

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Texas Tech

- ❖ Raegan Watkins is the RUF intern. *RUF Pastor Search in process.*

Providence Weekly

- ❖ To receive the weekly Providence email newsletter, subscribe by entering your email at the bottom of the Home page at the church's website:
www.providencecpca.org.

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 Beth Herring at bethsherring@yahoo.com.
 - Meal requests are registered at:
www.TakeThemAMeal.com.

Nursery

- ... **is available during worship for children 4 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 Quiet Room is set up for nursing mothers/moms with infants who need a place to rock and care for their babies. There is a TV set up in this room where the service will be streamed. This room is located inside our original nursery area. Please ring the doorbell to enter during the service.

(2) Snacks and coloring pages are located along the back wall of the sanctuary.

(3) Children's Bulletins are located on the back table 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

November 30 ~ Hope ♦ December 7 ~ Peace ♦ December 14 ~ Joy ♦ December 21 ~ Love ♦ December 24 ~ Christ

Ushers

❖ *Serving today*

- Brandon Mulkey ◦ Paul Herring
Michael Landess ◦ Tom Sell

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- Levi Myers ◦ John Haley
Larry LaFreniere ◦ Peter Griffith

Nursery

❖ *Serving today*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Amanda Caster ◦ Alisha Donet ◦ Rose Mulkey
Elizabeth Stewart ◦ Cana and Selah Dalton

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Rachel Myers ◦ Alexis Bingham ◦ Cate Myers
Brianna Bingham ◦ Wyatt Myers ◦ Emily Myers

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 14-20, 2025

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Psalms/Wisdom</i> | <i>Pentateuch/History</i> | <i>Chronicles/Prophets</i> | <i>Gospels/Epistles</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12/14 | Psalms 134 | Job 21 | Isaiah 43:1 - 44:5 | Revelation 4 |
| 12/15 | Psalms 135 | Job 22 | Isaiah 44:6-28 | Revelation 5 |
| 12/16 | Psalms 136 | Job 23-24 | Isaiah 45 | Revelation 6 |
| 12/17 | Psalms 137 | Job 25-26 | Isaiah 46-47 | Revelation 7:1 - 8:5 |
| 12/18 | Psalms 138 | Job 27 | Isaiah 48-49 | Revelation 8:6 - 9:21 |
| 12/19 | Psalms 139 | Job 28 | Isaiah 50 | Revelation 10 |
| 12/20 | Psalms 140 | Job 29 | Isaiah 51:1 - 52:12 | Revelation 11 |

Sermon Notes

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)*

Deacons

(deacons@providencepca.org)

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

Providence Staff

John D. Bennett, Senior Pastor
john.bennett@providencepca.org

Beth Herring, Administrative Assistant
admin@providencepca.org

Rachel Myers, Financial Administrator
finance@providencepca.org

RUF Campus Minister
RUF Pastor Search in process

Jeffrey Clendennen,
Youth & Family Ministry 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 Anne Griffith ◦ Kyla Sell
womensministry@providencepca.org

Please contact Jeffrey Clendennen
(jeffrey.clendennen@providencepca.org)
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.