PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

THE LORD'S DAY

November 29, 2026

Welcome and Announcements RE Tom Sell

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Preparation for Worship

*** CALL TO WORSHIP - RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 91:1-4, 14-16

[1]He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**[2]I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."**

[3]For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

**[4]He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

[14]"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

**[15]When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.**

[16]With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 198** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

*** PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION** Rev. John D. Bennett

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*Congregation Standing ◦ **Bold body of text recited together.**
All hymns are for congregational singing. ◦ All music copied by permission of CCLI #2510011

Scripture References from: *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)*
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Middleburg Liturgy†*

O Lord, our heavenly Father,
seeing you are our Maker, and we are the workmanship of your hands;
seeing you are our Pastor, and we your flock;
seeing also that you are our Redeemer, and we are the people whom you have bought;
Finally, because you are our God, and we are your chosen inheritance –
let not your anger be kindled against us,
that you should punish us in your wrath,
neither remember our wickedness so as to take vengeance for it,
but rather chastise us according to your mercy.
We confess, O Lord, that our misdeeds have inflamed your wrath against us,
yet considering that by your grace we call upon your name,
and make profession of your truth –
maintain, we ask you, the work that you have begun in us,
to the end that all the world may know that you are our God and Savior.
You know that those you have destroyed and brought to confusion,
do not set forth your praises,
but the heavy souls, the humble hearts,
the consciences oppressed and laden with the grievous burden of their sins,
and therefore thirst after your grace,
they shall set forth your praise and glory. – Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE Romans 5:6-11

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

[6]For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7]For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – [8]but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9]Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. [10]For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. [11]More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

†The Middleburg Liturgy was penned in 1586 by the English Puritan Thomas Cartwright (1553-1603) after he and his congregation were exiled to Middleburg in the Netherlands.

*** HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 230** *Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor*

*** CHILDREN'S CATECHISM** From: *First Catechism ~ Teaching Children Bible Truths*

Question 127: *What are they?*
Answer: **Baptism and the Lord's Supper.**

Question 128: *Who appointed these sacraments?*
Answer: **The Lord Jesus Christ.**

Question 129: *Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?*
Answer: **To distinguish his people from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.**

*** CONFESSION OF FAITH** *The Scots Confession, Chapter 1 (1560)*[†]

We confess and acknowledge one only God,
to whom alone we must cleave,
whom only we must serve,
whom only we must worship,
and in whom only we put our trust.
Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable,
incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible;
one in substance and yet distinct in three persons,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
By whom we confess and believe, all things in heaven and earth,
as well visible as invisible, to have been created,
to be retained in their being,
and to be ruled and guided by His inscrutable providence,
to such end as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed them
to the manifestation of His own Glory.

[†] *The Scots Confession is a Confession of Faith written in 1560 by six leaders of the Protestant Reformation in Scotland.*
The text of the Confession was the first subordinate standard for the Protestant church in Scotland.
Along with the Book of Discipline and the Book of Common Order,
this is considered to be a formational document for the Church of Scotland during the time.

RESPONDING TO THE LORD WITH HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

While there are many ways to contribute financially to God's Kingdom, the Church is the primary means by which that kingdom is established on earth. Thus, God calls us first and foremost to be faithful in the regular, ongoing support of one's local church body through tithes and offerings. If you haven't made tithing a practice, please consider adopting tithing or generous giving as a spiritual practice – that you might grow in faith and that together we might increase Providence's capacity to be the body of Christ in Lubbock for the world.

EPISTLE READING Galatians 4:1-7

[1]I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, [2]but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. [3]In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. [4]But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5]to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6]And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" [7]So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-33

[26]In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27]to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. [28]And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [29]But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [30]And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31]And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32]He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33]and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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

Genesis 3:1-15

[1]Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
[2]And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3]but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [4]But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
[5]For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6]So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7]Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

[8]And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9]But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10]And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11]He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12]The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." [13]Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

[14]The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
[15]I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Minister: *The Word of the Lord!*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE 195** *Joy to the World!*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please see *Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence* on page 10 of this 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 right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, 0 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 and 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

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†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).

HYMN OF COMMUNION 194 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*** DOXOLOGY** Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (#194 - *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** Psalm 67:1-2

[1]May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
[2]that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

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 29 ~ *Hope* ✦ December 6 ~ Peace
December 13 ~ *Joy* ✦ December 20 ~ *Love*
December 24 ~ *Christ*

Sunday School

- Sunday School is available for all ages. Two adult classes are available:
  - *The Book of Isaiah:* Room 10 - Jeremy Dalton
  - *Augustine:* Room 11 - Jeffrey Clendennen

  Sunday School did not meet today but will resume next week..

Events This Week

- ***Women's Bible Study Morning Group*** meets Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Child care provided.)
- ***Morning Men's Group*** meets Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- ***Women's Bible Study Evening Group*** meets this Wednesday, December 2, 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.
- ***Women's Christmas Brunch:*** Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Stella's Restaurant, 6015 82nd Street. *(Registration required.)*

Upcoming Events

- ***Youth Large Group*** (6th to 12th grade) meets again on Wednesday, December 9, from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ***Covenant Kids*** (Nursery to 5th Grade) meets again on Wednesday, December 9, from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ***Community Groups*** meet again on Wednesday, December 9, and Sunday, December 13.
- ***Young Professionals:*** Candlelight and Desserts, Friday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.
- ***Hymn Sing:*** Sunday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.
- ***Christmas Eve Service:*** Thursday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Texas Tech

- Taylor McPherson is the RUF Campus Minister at Texas Tech.

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.providencepca.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.

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.

Ushers

❖*Serving today*

- Jason Mulkey ○ Ryan Henry
  Tom Nicholson ○ Trace Hunt

❖*Serving next Sunday*

- Blaine Grimes ○ Ian Schlagel
  Tom Brooks ○ Shane Shepherd

Nursery

❖*Serving today*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Stefanie Bennett ○ Elizabeth Stewart ○ Julia Kramedjian
- **Pre-School:** Della, Mary Abbott, and Bailey Kramedjian ○ Maria Scott

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Ann Moushon ○ Rebecca Mulkey ○ Rose Mulkey
- **Pre-School:** Courtney Steele ○ Erin Herendeen ○ Catelyn Steele

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.*

Chronological Bible Daily Reading Plan: November 29 to December 5, 2026	
Date	***Text***
Sunday, 11/29	1 Corinthians 1-4
Monday, 11/30	1 Corinthians 5-8
Tuesday, 12/01	1 Corinthians 9-11
Wednesday, 12/02	1 Corinthians 12-14
Thursday, 12/03	1 Corinthians 15-16
Friday, 12/04	2 Corinthians 1-4
Saturday, 12/05	2 Corinthians 5-9

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*

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
seniorpastor@providencepca.org

Beth Herring, Administrative Assistant
admin@providencepca.org
Rachel Myers, Financial Administrator
finance@providencepca.org
Larry LaFreniere, Executive Administrator
execadmin@providencepca.org
Brian Ostling, Facilities Maintenance
facilities@providencepca.org

Jeffrey Clendennen,
Youth & Family Ministry Director
jeffrey.clendennen@providencepca.org
Kathryn Clendennen, Coordinator for Covenant Kids, kids@providencepca.org

Taylor McPherson, RUF Campus Minister
taylor.mcpherson@ruf.org

Providence Lay Ministry Teams Leadership

Building Committee ..... Larry Lafreniere
Missions Team ..... Chuck Donet
Music Team..... Matthew and Allison Smith
Young Professionals..... Clint and Alexis Bingham
YoungProfessionals@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.

Providence Presbyterian Church
@ppclubbock

venmo

Giving through October 31, 2026

- Year-to-date all categories giving $582,145
- Year-to-date budget $619,750

Updated monthly after financial review.