



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *“Divinum Mysterium”* arr, Held

*Lighting of the Advent Candles: Stanek Family

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent means coming. We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace;

who brings good news, who announces salvation.

I will bring you home, says the Lord; I will gather you in and restore your fortunes before your eyes. Sing aloud, O people, and shout for joy!

The Lord our God is in our midst.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN *“Prepare the Way, O Zion”* # 106

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI # 583

Vocal Solo/Flute Descant *“If We Knew When”* Schram
Vivian Markley, Abby Burchfield

CHILDREN’S CHAT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT Zephaniah 3: 14-20

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 3: 7-18

SERMON “The Promise of Restoration”

*HYMN *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* # 144

*APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Our offerings are a sign of gratitude. Let us join together and sing our praise to God from whom all blessings flow.

*DOXOLOGY *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* # 608

ANTHEM *“An Invitation For Advent”* Schram, arr. Nolan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* # 121

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”* Monk

* Please stand if you are able.

A birthday remembrance for
Sgt. Brandon E. Adams
given by his family

521Prayer: Marsha Hansard, Elaine Kilgore
Liturgist: Sue Payne Nursery: Devany Laratonda

TODAY	10:15 AM	Worship
MONDAY	6:30 PM	Session meeting
WEDNESDAY	6:30 PM	Choir
THURSDAY	11:30 AM	Bible Study
SATURDAY	11:30 AM	Soup on Saturday/Hot Chocolate and Cookies
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Worship
	1:30 PM	Blue Christmas/Longest Night Prayer Service

If you have Christmas Cards for your friends at Providence, you may place them in the Christmas Card mailbox that is in Fellowship Hall. The cards will be sorted by Santa's helpers and shared on Sunday, December 22.

To feel "blue" means to feel sad, downcast, or melancholy. If you have experienced a loss or a tragedy, or if you simply find the holiday season difficult to get through, Pastor Hilary will be leading an informal **Blue Christmas/Longest Night prayer service on Sunday, December 22nd at 1:30 PM at the church.** Please feel free to invite others who may find this service helpful.

If you can't make the service (or don't feel up to being with others), you may pick up a "Blue Christmas prayers to-go" resource outside the Pastor's office. Please see Pastor Hilary for more details.



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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