PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH December 21, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Innes

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Readers are from Thursday Bible

Study

Reader 1: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Reader 2: For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior in all their distress.

Reader 1: It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Reader 2: Today we light the candle of love. God created the world, and God so loved the world that he didn't want to love it from far off anymore. It was love that made us and love that brought God to live with us, live and in person. Love still lights the way. Let us pray:

All: Dear God, are we doing this right? Sometimes we aren't sure. We think that we are ready for the baby to be born who will lead us in love. Show us how to love our neighbors while we wait. As we welcome the baby Jesus to the world, teach us how to also be like him. Let the light of your love live in us for all to see. Amen.

*HYMN "People Look East"

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all

free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI # 583

BELL CHOIR "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Carol Young Krug

CHILDREN'S CHAT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 11: 1-3

SECOND READING Matthew 1: 18-25

FLUTE SOLO "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Amanda Yeager arr. Lanier

SERMON "The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

SERIES "Calling All Angels"

*HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" # 121

*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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Pachelbel's Noel" Barb Hazlett, Carol Young arr. Zylstra *DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 608
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 "Love Has Come"

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Broughton

The flowers are given in Birthday Remembrance By the Adams Family

Prayer: Pastor Dennis, Kathy Rutter Liturgist: Sue Payne

TODAY 10:15 AM Worship

2:00 PM Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM Music Prelude

6:30 PM Candle Light Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Christmas Café Church

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service – Sunday, December 21 at 2 p.m. To feel "blue" means to feel sad, downcast, or melancholy. If the holiday season is not "the most wonderful time of the year" for you, join us for this time of music, meditation, and finding hope in hard times. All are invited. Blue Christmas "To Go" kits are available outside the pastor's office for those who can't attend in person.

The Christmas Eve service will begin with a musical prelude at 6 p.m. and continue with the candlelight service at 6:30 p.m.

The nursery will not have an attendant on Christmas Eve. Parents are welcome to use the nursery, but will need to stay with their child.

The reports from each ministry team need to be submitted by January 15, 2026. These reports will be included in the annual report which is distributed at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February 2026.

Join us the Sunday after Christmas, December 28 at 10:15 a.m. for a very special Christmas Café' Church in Fellowship Hall where we'll eat, drink, sing carols, and celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. Wear your Christmas

PJ's, ugly sweaters, and most outlandishly-festive holiday outfits. Bring a friend and or family member. Join us for this fun, festive celebration. There is no livestream on 12/28.

^{*} Please stand if you are able.