

# **The Covenant Renewal Service**

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## **Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126  
(314) 843-7994 [www.providencestlouis.com](http://www.providencestlouis.com)



## **The First Sunday in Advent**

*November 29, 2009*

# Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the black registration folder at the end of the pew and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Please join us downstairs for coffee after the service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages which meet after the service at 10:50 AM. Please take the time to sign our guestbook in the foyer before you leave today. We invite you to return to our evening service at 6 PM and fellowship in a more informal setting.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: [www.providencestl.com](http://www.providencestl.com).

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine. (The grape juice has a darker color than the wine.)



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are purple. Violet or purple is the royal color. During Advent season we pray for and reflect upon the ways in which Christ our King comes to serve us.

# The Morning Service

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The Lord's Day — November 29, 2009

*The First Sunday in Advent*

**Preparation For Worship: Psalm 24**

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

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## The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Psalm 24:7-10*

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

†Hymn #146 "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

*Matthew 28:19*

The Lord be with you!

*Ruth 2:4*

**And also with you!**

The people who walked in darkness,

*Isaiah 9:2*

**Have seen a great light!**

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

**On them a light has shined!**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

**Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, so that by his coming we may be enabled to serve and obey you with pure hearts and minds. Lighten the darkness of our hearts even now, by coming to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may readily receive your good and gracious gifts today through your appointed means of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

## Purification

†Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness:

**Almighty God, my heavenly Father, you do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his evil way and live: I pray that you would be gracious to me and turn from me**

those punishments which I by my sins have deserved, and to grant me grace from this day forward to serve you in holiness and purity; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

*Silent Prayer. Amen!*

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads and hear the good news . . . !

## **Ascension**

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

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

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is proper and right to do so.**

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. For you have proven your faithfulness in fulfilling the promise of the birth and ministry of Jesus, and because of this we anticipate the completion of your plan for us and your world in the future. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†Hymn of Praise: #122 “Of the Father’s love begotten” *Trinity Hymnal*

*The Appointed Readings for The First Sunday in Advent*

The Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 33:14-16* Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Reading: *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Scripture Song “The Lord sent Angel Gabriel”

ALL:

The Lord sent Angel Gabriel  
Unto the place where Mary dwelled,  
Proclaiming she would bear the Seed  
Whose birth was from of old decreed.

Text: Copyright (c) 1995 by Bill Hoover. Used by permission. Based on Luke 1:26-38. Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD (see hymn #359)
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MEN:

“All hail, thou highly favoured one,  
For thou shalt bear God’s only Son,  
Whose kingdom’s reign no end shall see;  
This Child shall soon be formed in thee.”

WOMEN:

Then said the maiden meek and mild,  
“How shall this be? How comes this Child?  
For all my days no man I’ve known;  
Myself I’ve kept for God alone.”

MEN:

Then Gabriel said, “The Holy Ghost,  
Yea, He that rules the heav’nly host  
Shall surely overshadow thee;  
The Babe thou shalt bear, verily.”

WOMEN:

“According to God’s holy word  
Let it be done as I have heard.  
I humbly with His will accord;  
Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”

ALL:

Lord, help us all so meek to be  
And bow to all Thou shalt decree;  
Grant faith which resteth calm and still,  
Embracing Thy most holy will.

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 18:35–19:10*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and 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 men 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 Scriptures, and ascended into heaven,**

**and sits on 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 I 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 worshipped and  
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the  
world to come. Amen!

†The *Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world with-  
out end. Amen!

Sermon Text: *Luke 18:35–19:9*

Sermon: THE SON OF DAVID'S MERCY

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

LVIII. AN EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

†We Recite God's Holy Standard for Living

*Matthew 5:2-12*

Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,

**For they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,

**For they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**For they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful,

**For they shall receive mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,

**For they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,

**For they shall be called sons of God.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,

**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you

**And utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven,  
For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

†[HANDS RAISED] The *Doxology*

*Trinity Hymnal*, p. xvi

†[HANDS RAISED] The Lord's Prayer

## The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

Communion Hymn #233 "Rejoice, all ye believers"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): Luke 2:30-32

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastoral Prayer: Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come; that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins, and saved by your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

## Benediction

†Hymn #118 "O Savior, precious Savior"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Greet One Another!

# TODAY AT PROVIDENCE

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*Nursery Volunteers, Thank You!*

**Today's Volunteers:**

Morning Service – Coller, Pratt  
Sunday School – Rodger, Jeff Keane Family  
Evening Service – Meyers, Hoover

**Next Sunday's Volunteers:**

Morning Service – Schmidt, Boeve  
Sunday School – Shields, Horne, Wamsley  
Evening Service – Montgomery

**Adult Sunday School Class "The Reformation"** – Our adult Sunday school class continues this morning in the fellowship hall. Audio mp3s of the previous classes are available online at [www.providencestlouis.com](http://www.providencestlouis.com). Our class today is on "The Reformation in France (Huguenots)".

The **College and Career Class** meets at the Shield's home during the Sunday school hour. Tim LeCroy is leading this class.

**Shower for our Daughter Church, Resurrection Presbyterian Church** There are only TWO Sundays left to nail your note of encouragement to the door. You may take a notecard or two home to fill out then bring back and nail it on the door. Notes will be kept confidential. The notepaper and envelopes are provided. We are also accepting donations to help support the church plant. Please put "church plant" in the memo and either drop it in the box by the door or in the offering plate. Members of the WIC board are available for assistance.

## **Church Calendar**

*Tuesdays*

Men's Bible Study

*Fridays*

High School Guys' Bible Study

November 30

Session Meeting

December 6

Memory Listening / Deacons' Fund Collection

December 7

WIC Christmas Party

December 20

Lessons and Carols

**Church Calendar** – If you would like to plan a church event within or outside of the church building (or even to use the church building for non-PRPC events) please check with Melanie Carter or Paul Jaeggi to ensure that the calendar is available. The calendar on Paul's desk may not reflect all the recent updates.

# Announcements

**Deacons' Fund Next Week** - Next Sunday, the deacons will be taking up a collection for the Deacons' Fund. Please consider donating to this good ministry. 100% of your donation goes directly to families within our church family who are struggling financially.

**Memory Listeners**—will hear our Covenant children (ranging from four year olds to eighth graders) recite their catechism questions and scripture verses next Sunday. Please work with your child this week so that he/she will give a good recitation!

**The Annual Ladies' Christmas Party** will be held at Brookie Moore's home (695 Hawbrook Avenue in Kirkwood) Monday, December 7, at 7 PM. Bring a wrapped White Elephant gift and either a dessert or appetizer. (Teens who participated in the Secret Sisters should bring the final gift. For those who didn't participate bring a wrapped gift too.) In addition WIC gift giving this year will include purchases for the kitchen and nursery. Sign up sheets for the list of items for the kitchen and nursery and to attend this event are located on the WIC table in the foyer. Baskets will be available to leave the unwrapped items. On each gift list are ways to give of your time and labor too. Contact Joanie Harris if you have questions 636-394-6896.

**Christmas Lessons & Carols** – Our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service will be Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 PM. This is a festive carol and anthem celebration involving special music from four choirs (Adult, Youth, Elementary, and Preschool). Please note the following:

***Sunday School Rehearsals*** - Please support regular attendance of your children at Sunday School, which is where the music is being learned. (Preschool and Elementary rehearsals are at 10:50, Youth Choir is 11:30-12:00.)

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** On Dec 13 and Dec 20, Grades 1-6, the Youth Choir, and the Adult Choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary for the entire Sunday School hour, to run through the entire program.

***Children's Prelude*** - If your child is taking music lessons and would like to play a short Christmas carol (approx. one minute) as part of the Children's Prelude, please notify Barb or Bill Hoover.

***Youth Choir Dress Code (grades 7-12)*** - Ladies: white (or closest light colored) blouse or sweater, and black (or closest dark) skirt and hose. Gentlemen: white (or closest light colored) dress shirt, necktie, black (or closest dark) slacks, and nice shoes (no jacket necessary). Long sleeves are preferred.

***Food for Reception*** - Please sign up to bring cookies or finger food for the reception which will follow the service. A signup sheet will be in the narthex.

# The Westminster Confession of Faith

## Chapter 2, paragraph 2

God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself;  
and is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient,  
not standing in need of any creatures which he hath made,  
nor deriving any glory from them,  
but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them.

He is the alone fountain of all being,  
of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things;  
and hath most sovereign dominion over them,  
to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever himself pleaseth.  
In his sight all things are open and manifest,  
his knowledge is infinite, infallible,  
and independent upon the creature,  
so as nothing is to him contingent, or uncertain.

He is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands.

To him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience he is pleased to require of them.

**Welcome to Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. Please fill out the visitor's registration before the service begins. Join us this evening at 6 PM for fellowship, singing, prayer, and a Scripture lesson.**

## The Evening Service

*The First Sunday in Advent*  
November 29, 2009

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 25*

†Hymn "The advent of our God"

Hymn Sing & Prayer Requests

†The Sanctus

Pastor Jeff Meyers  
(see handout)

(see handout)

UPDATE ON RESURRECTION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Pastor Chris Smith

†Hymn #51 (sts. 1-4) "Jesus is our sure defense" *Anglo-Genevan Psalter*

†Postlude

# The Lord's Service at Home

## Advent Season 2009

The English word Advent is derived from the Latin *advenire*, "to come to." Advent has to do with the Lord's coming to us. The Lord *has* come to us (at the birth of Christ), *regularly* comes to us (especially on the Lord's Day), and *will* come to us (bodily again at the end of this age). Advent season, then, is a time to reflect upon all of the ways—past, present, and future—in which the Lord comes to us. Please remember that the purpose of Advent is not to imagine ourselves to be living at the time immediately preceding Christ's birth and so somehow *pretend* that we are waiting for him to be born. It is not time for a spiritual game of "make believe." Neither is the purpose of Advent to think sentimental thoughts about the baby Jesus. There is no real spiritual power in any of this. The purpose of Advent is to *expect* and *pray* for the coming of the Lord.

Although our own hymnal does not separate out Advent from Christmas hymns, a quick glance at any of the traditional Advent hymns will confirm that they petition the Lord to come (see #231, 145-149, and 235-243). During Advent we *remember* his first coming (he kept his promises to his people in the OT) and we *pray* that the Lord will remember his *promises* and come to us again, judging the enemies of the Church and delivering his people from all evil. During Advent season we petition the Lord to come again to us, both now and finally at the end of the age.

Use either the opening corporate prayer or the closing pastoral prayer from the service this morning in your family and/or individual devotions this week. The traditional Advent hymn #145 should be sung all this week.

An Advent wreath can be used to enhance your family devotions, but there is no need to attach any significance to each individual candle. All four candles can be the same color—dark blue or purple. Some modern Advent devotional schemes err in encouraging us to pretend we are living before Jesus' birth. It is best to use the Scripture readings below, reflecting on the way God keeps his covenantal promises. The family should reflect on all the ways the Lord comes to help us.

## Advent Scripture Readings – This Week

Monday, Nov. 30	–	Isa. 1:1-9	Psalm 40	Luke 20:1-8	1 Thess. 1:1-10
Tuesday, Dec. 1	–	Isa. 1:10-20	Psalm 85	Luke 20:9-18	1 Thess. 2:1-12
Wed., Dec. 2	–	Isa. 1:21-31	Psalm 50	Luke 20:19-26	1 Thess. 2:13-20
Thursday, Dec. 3	–	Isa. 2:1-5	Psalm 18	Luke 20:27-40	1 Thess. 3:1-13
Friday, Dec. 4	–	Isa. 2:6-22	Psalm 62	Luke 20:41-21:4	1 Thess. 4:1-12
Saturday, Dec. 5	–	Isa. 3:1-4:1	Psalm 16	Luke 21:5-19	1 Thess. 4:13-18

# Officers and Resource People

## The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Joel Montgomery	314-984-8074
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	John Moore	314-984-9869
Rev. Chris Smith (Assoc)	314-962-1974 (O)	Ken Pratt	314-416-1176
Rev. Josh Anderson (Assoc)	314-968-5114	Monte Shields	314-849-0597
Jason Carter	636-257-2441	Brad Wood (Clerk)	636-587-9211
Tom Hanley	314-965-2205		

## The Deacons

Bryan Carter (Chairman)	636-271-7288	Allan Wamsley	636-257-3933
Bill Coller	314-726-6799	Tim Werkema (Secretary)	314-727-6589
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Daryl Hoegemann (Treasurer)	314-962-4874	George Yoder	314-729-0540
Steve Sterner	314-832-1502		

## Church Staff

Chris Smith	314-962-1974 (Office)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-205-2018 (Home)
Associate Pastor	314-962-1953 (Home)	Pastor to International Students	814-2019 (Cell)
Rev. Joshua Anderson	314-814-5213 (Home)	Rev. Timothy LeCroy (Ast. Pastor)	314-604-2088
Associate Pastor	314-814-5213 (Cell)	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)	Melanie Carter (Secretary)	636-271-7288
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)	Jennifer Horne (Financial Secretary)	314-225-5036

## Pastoral Interns

Jonathan Barlow	314-429-6648	Scott Pitts	314-974-1364
Justin Donathan	314-583-5355	Dave Salyer	314-216-0019
George Edema	314-221-7486	Steve Sterner	314-420-1229

## Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia
Garrett & Michelle Crow	Santa Clarita, CA	John & Cathy Rug	Chile
Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Lian & Clara Tombing	India
Bryan Walker	US Army Chaplain	Marcus Toole	Canada
Daniel & Stephanie McKinney	Salt Lake City	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Dan & Becky Young	Mexico

## Prayer Chain Contacts

Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Carolann Van Heest	314-966-5732
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## Children's Sunday School Program

Ages 2 & 3	Kathy Hoegemann	Grade 4	Joel Montgomery
Age 4	Rachel Keane	Grade 5	Wei San & Dana Hui
Age 5/K	Rachel Wood & Amanda Cone	Grade 6	Jon Barlow
Grades 1	Wes Murrell	Grades 7 & 8	Brookie Moore
Grade 2-3	Donna Carter	High School	Dave Salyer