

The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
(314) 843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2009

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church 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. Please join us this evening at 6 PM for our annual Christmas Lessons & Carols vespers service.

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.providencesfl.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

The Lord's Day — December 20, 2009

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preparation For Worship: Romans 15:8-13

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation "Of the Father's love begotten"

arr. Flor Peeters; Tim Werkema, clarinet; Bill Hoover, organ

Call to Worship: *Romans 15:12-13*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

†Hymn #147 "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

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 glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

Isaiah 40:5

and all people shall see it together,

For the mouth of Yahweh has spoken!

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son for us. Increase and strengthen our faith and fix it firmly on the mystery of your Word made flesh, that we may triumph over all evil through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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, our heavenly Father, your Son is coming in power to bring all nations under his rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom and have often ignored the coming judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, refuse to serve those who most need us, and violate your justice and peace.

. . . [Silent, personal confession of sin]. . .

Because of your great mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to walk in in your ways, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen!

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

The Rite of Christian Baptism: *Jullian Paul Camp*

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 28:18-20*

Vows of Sponsors: *Jim & Mary Berkholtz, Steve & Lori Shaffer,*

Do you acknowledge this child'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 his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you now present this child to be baptized into the Christian Faith, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with him and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vows

Do you, members of this congregation and also members of the Body of Christ outside of this local church, undertake this responsibility—assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Holy Baptism: *Jullian Paul Camp*

Prayer: *Elder Monte Shields*

Our Prayer: Hymn #355 "Lord Jesus Christ" *Trinity Hymnal*

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

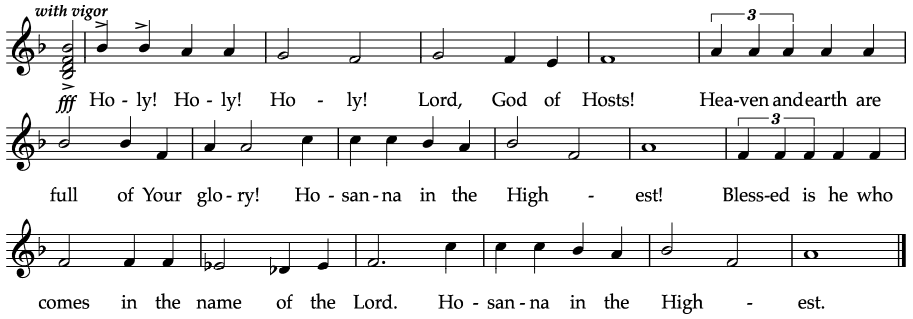
We lift them up to the Lord!

†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 . . .

†The Sanctus



with vigor
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are
full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san - na in the High - est! Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

The Old Testament Reading: *Psalms 118*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Acts 4:1-12*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Psalms 95 "The Lord be praised"

Anglo Genevan Psalter

The LORD be praised; come let us sing,
And let our voice with rapture ring
To hail the rock of our salvation
Before our God with strength endued
We'll come with shouts of gratitude,
With psalms and songs of adoration.

The LORD our God is good and great;
None is like Him in royal state.
No god, O God, shall stand before Thee.
The depths of earth are in His hand;
He formed the mountains, shaped the land;
The sea is His. All show His glory!

Come, let us worship and bow down
Before this God of great renown.
Our Maker, Him our thanks we render:
He led us by His mighty hand
To pastures in a verdant land.
He is our Shepherd, our Defender.

Would that today you heard His voice!
Do not renew your fathers' choice;
Meribah, Massah saw them chastened.
With hardened hearts they tested Me;
They disobeyed though they could see
How to their aid I always hastened.

For forty years I bore their ill.
I said, "They err in heart and will
And from My ways they stray forever."
Then in My anger I did swear,
"My heritage they shall not share;
Into My rest they'll enter never."

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 20:1-18*

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*

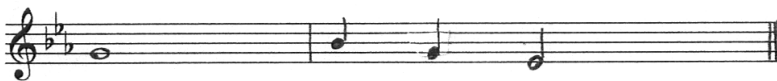
Sermon Text: *Luke 2:1-7*

Sermon: **TO STONE OR BE STONED**

Pastor Jeff Meyers

LXI. EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

†The *Magnificat*



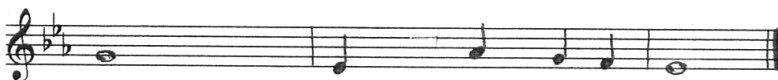
1 My soul doth	magni -	fy the	Lord,
2 For be -	hold	from	henceforth
3 He hath shewed	strength	with his	arm;
4 He hath filled the hungry with	good		things;
5 Glory	be	to the	Father:



1 And my spirit hath re - joiced in God my Savior.
2 All gener - ations shall call me blessèd.
3 He hath scattered the proud in the imagi - nation of their hearts.
4 And the rich he hath sent empty a - way.
5 And to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



1 For he hath re - garded
2 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things;
2b And his mercy is on them that fear him
3 He hath put down the mighty from their seats,
4 He hath holpen his servant Is-ra-el, in re - membrance of his mercy;
5 As it was in the be - ginning,



1 The low es - tate of his handmaiden.
2 And ho - ly is his Name. (to 2b)
2b From gener - ation to gen - er - ation.
3 And exalted them of low de - gree.
4 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
5 Is now and ever shall be, world without end. A - men.

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

Hymn #583 (*Psalms* 25) "Lord, I lift my soul" *Trinity Hymnal* (Tune of #492)

†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: Strengthen us, O God according to the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn "Wake, awake, for night is flying"

"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia! With bridal care yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom who is near."

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
All their heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all the wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, no ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory; Therefore will we eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Greet One Another!

TODAY AT PROVIDENCE

Nursery Volunteers, Thank You!

Today's Volunteers:

Morning Service – Cakouros, Porter, Pratt
Sunday School – Wermuth, Hiers, Pitts, Inion

Next Sunday's Volunteers:

Morning Service – Greeno, Hiers

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. Our class today will be a wrap up of the past semester.

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

Announcements

Christmas Eve Service - On Thursday evening at 7 PM, join us for our special Christmas Eve Service.

Next Sunday's Schedule - There will be no adult or children's Sunday School on December 27th, so that families and teachers will be better able to celebrate the Christmas season together. Remember to thank your children's teachers for their hard work in serving our children! Evening worship is also canceled.

On Vacation - Pastor Meyers will be on vacation for the next couple of weeks. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Anderson or Pastor LeCroy.

Directory Update - Paul Svezia has a new email address: pjsvezia@gmail.com

Nominations for Elder and Deacon - The Session will receive (from the members of Providence) nominations for the office of Elder and Deacon during the month of December. If you would like to nominate someone, please use the form available on the table in the foyer or simply email one of the pastors or ruling elders.

Nursery Volunteers - It's time to sign up to serve in the nursery. The sign up sheet is on the WIC table in the narthex. We ask that each family sign up to serve three times per quarter, once during morning worship, once during Sunday school and once during evening worship. Please remember that we require two adults in the nursery at all times. If your child will be assisting you in the nursery, he/she needs to be 15 years old or older. Any questions, see Kathy Pratt or Anne Hiers.

Lessons and Carols

Our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service is tonight at 6:00 PM. The Children's Prelude begins at 5:40. After the service, join us downstairs for some light refreshments. Please note the following:

Offering for Missionary Families - A Christmas offering will be taken for our missionaries and their children.

Reception Help - Those who have signed up to help setup, please see Ami Anderson this morning for instructions.

Sunday School Rehearsal - Today, Grades 1-6, the Youth Choir, the Adult Choir, and instrumentalists will rehearse in the Sanctuary for the entire Sunday School hour (until noon), to run through the entire program. (The Preschoolers will join for a few minutes.) Teachers, please attend with your classes. Parents, please help your children be especially prompt today.

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, nice shoes, no jacket. Long sleeves are preferred. Use closest match available.

Children's Prelude - Children who have signed up for the prelude may practice in the choir loft immediately following the worship service, until Sunday School rehearsal begins. Barb Hoover will be there to meet with the children.

Schedule for tonight:

4:00-4:45 PM Adult Choir rehearsal*
4:45-5:30 PM Youth Choir rehearsal*
5:30 PM Children's Prelude participants report to choir loft
5:40 PM Children's Prelude begins
5:45 PM Age 2 thru Grade 6 report to classrooms to line up
6:00 PM Lessons & Carols Service begins

*Sandwiches will be available beginning at 4:15 for singers and family members required to come at 4:45 PM or earlier.

Photography - As in previous years, we will ask that flash pictures not be taken. Pastor Meyers will be capturing high quality images of the children throughout the service. If you want to make sure that he includes your child, please contact him before the service and let him know. He'll be happy to accommodate all requests.

Seating - During the service, grades 1-6 will sit with their teachers. Ages 2-K will remain with their teachers until they sing, after which they will join their parents.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Hoover. A sincere thanks to so many of you for your help!

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, Dec. 21 –	Isa. 11:1-9	Psalm 24	Luke 23:44-49	1 Tim. 4:1-5
Tuesday, Dec. 22 –	Isa. 11:10-16	Psalm 122	Luke 23:50-56	1 Tim. 4:6-16
Wed., Dec 23 –	Isa. 28:9-22	Psalm 16	Luke 24:1-12	1 Tim. 5:1-2
Thursday, Dec. 24 –	Isa. 29:9-24	Psalm 126	Luke 24:13-35	1 Tim. 5:3-16
Friday, Dec. 25 –	Isa. 59:15-21	Psalm 132	Luke 24:36-49	1 Tim. 5:17-25
Saturday, Dec. 26 –	Zech. 2:10-13	Psalm 2	Luke 24:50-53	1 Tim. 6:1-10

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