

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church

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



The First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 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.

All Sunday School classes today are cancelled to better enable teachers and students to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families and friends. Please remember to thank your teachers for all their hard work this year! Also, there will be no evening worship tonight.

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 27, 2009

The First Sunday After Christmas

Preparation For Worship: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Organ - Mrs. Joanie Harris

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Joshua Anderson

The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Luke 2:8-14*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

†Hymn #163 "To us a Child of hope is born"

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!

Unto us a Child is born;

Isaiah 9:6

Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called,

**Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

God of grace, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. 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:

Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. I humbly confess my sins and ask for

your mercy. I have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have I loved my neighbor as myself. I have not been just in dealing with others. I have not loved kindness or walked humbly before you, my God. Have mercy on me, O God, because of your lovingkindness. In your great compassion, cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *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 good, right, and beneficial that we should give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have given us a new revelation of your glory so that knowing you in the Person of your Son, we may be drawn to love you and your people. 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 #149 “Joy to the World”

Trinity Hymnal

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Mr. Scott Pitts

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Ephesians 3:1-12*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn #169 “Who is this so weak & helpless

Trinity Hymnal

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-23*

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: *Matthew 2:1-23*

Sermon: THE BIRTH OF THE KING

Pastor Joshua Anderson

†Hymn of Praise: #151 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *Trinity Hymnal*

The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Hark! the herald angels sing"

arr. Timothy Brown; Nathan Wamsley, piano

† [HANDS RAISED] The *Doxology*

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

† [HANDS RAISED] The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

Communion Hymn #160 "God rest you merry, gentlemen"

†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: Direct us, O Lord, in all our actions by your gracious favor, and further us with your continual help that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in your Name, we may glorify your holy Name and finally by your mercy receive eternal life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #168 "Hark! The herald angels sing"

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

Welcome to Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. Please fill out the guest book registration after the service. Come downstairs and join us for some coffee after the morning worship service.

No Sunday School or Evening Worship

All Sunday School classes today are cancelled to better enable teachers and students to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families and friends. Please remember to thank your teachers for all their hard work this year! Also, there will be no evening worship tonight.

TODAY AT PROVIDENCE

Nursery Volunteers, Thank You!

Today's Volunteers:

Morning Service – Greeno, Hiers

Next Sunday's Volunteers:

See the schedule on the WIC table.

Today's Schedule - All Sunday School classes today are cancelled to better enable teachers and students to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families and friends. Please remember to thank your teachers for all their hard work this year! Also, there will be no evening worship tonight.

On Vacation - Pastor Meyers will be on vacation for another 10 days. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Anderson.

The Providence Men's Bible Study, which meets at 7 AM at the church building on Tuesday mornings, will begin reading and discussing a new book on January 12, 2010. We will be reading Peter Leithart's "The Kingdom and the Power." If you haven't been a part of the Bible Study in the past, this is an excellent time to join! Please see Josh Anderson with any questions.

Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study will resume on January 7, from 9:30-11:00. Childcare is provided. See Barb Hoover for details.

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

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.

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. Some active Deacons have served two consecutive terms (6 years) and are required to take a sabbatical year beginning May 2006. These include Deacons Bryan Carter, Tim Werkema, and Allan Wamsley. If you have any questions, please ask one of the pastors or elders.

Procedures for Nursery Volunteers

1. Volunteers should arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the service (8:45am) to ensure that parents may drop off their children safely and in a timely fashion.
2. Greet people warmly as they bring their children to the nursery and identify yourself by name. Ask parents to sign their children in on the sign-in sheet. Make sure allergies or any special instructions are listed. Put name tag on back of child. Make sure each child's diaper bag is clearly tagged. Normally, ages newborn to 15 months are in the infant nursery and ages 15 months to 3 years are in the toddler nursery.
3. Two adult volunteers (age 18 or older) must be present at all times. Parent/older teenager (at least 15) team are okay. If a situation ever arises in which a volunteer finds himself or herself serving alone, alert a deacon or nursery coordinator immediately to find another volunteer.
4. Be sure to check diapers periodically. Parents should supply diapers and wipes with their child. If not, the nursery is stocked with both. Please put soiled diapers in the plastic bags located near the changing station. Tie the bag then put the plastic bag in the trash can.
5. If a child cries excessively or is inconsolable, it may be necessary to ask one of the child's parents to remove him or her from the nursery for the sake of other children. Attempt to contact a deacon to notify the parents, so that the both volunteers can remain with the children. If child is injured, even if not serious, inform the parents.
6. Under normal circumstances, only a child's parents may drop off and pickup a child from the nursery. Nursery workers should release children only to their parents, not to older siblings, relatives, or anyone else unless explicitly authorized to do so by the parents (written on the sign in sheet). Parents put initials on the sign in sheet when they pick up their child.
7. Goldfish crackers are in the toddler nursery, Cheerios are in the infant nursery. Ask parents if their child can eat these snacks. If you aren't sure, do not feed any of the children. (Distract them with toys, books, singing, etc.) Parents should put their child's name on Sippy cups so the cup stays with the proper child. Use Dixie cups to scoop/pour snacks to keep snacks sanitary.
8. Volunteers need to stay in the nursery the entire time in case a parent needs to drop off a child mid-service. For example, some parents drop off children just before the sermon.

9. After your nursery session is complete, wipe toys with disinfectant wipes and put them in the appropriate places. List any supplies that need restocking in the binder or on the clipboard.

10. Finding a substitute is your responsibility. If you need to switch your nursery duty, please look on the schedule, call that person, and then inform the nursery coordinator of the change so the postcard will be sent to the correct person. Contact the nursery coordinator if you cannot find a substitute. The nursery schedule is posted by each nursery room.

11. If you need to cancel last minute, contact the nursery coordinator ASAP.

Reminder: If your child is sick or possibly sick, do not place them in the nursery.

Thank you for serving our little ones!

Sermon Notes & Prayer Requests

Sermon Notes & Prayer Requests

The Lord's Service Explained

Christmas Season

Just as the great redemptive events recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures were keyed to the changes in the seasons—Passover in the Spring means life from the dead—so also the church has ordered her Scripture readings and prayers so that the life of Christ would be correlated to the symbolic changes evident in the seasons of the year. Easter, for example, is celebrated in the Spring when the entire created order is symbolically restored from death to life.

Consider how this works for Christmas. Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25th? Not because anyone really believed that Jesus was actually born on this date—although the early church had good reasons to suspect a winter birth. Nor is it the case, as some maliciously teach, that the church gullibly adopted a pagan Roman holiday, the festival of the Invincible Sun (*Dies Natalis Dei Solis Invicti*). The early church was not so naïve. The date was picked for symbolic reasons.

The winter solstice occurs around December 25th (solstice from the Latin: *sol* = sun, and *sistere* = to stand still). This is the time of the year when the Sun reaches its southern-most extremity (or to put it another way, it is the point on the Sun's ecliptic at which it is the farthest south). The longest night and the shortest day occur at this point, and from this day onward the days get longer and the nights get shorter. The darkness of winter begins to give way to the light and warmth of Spring and Summer. This continues until the summer solstice when the other extreme is reached.

What does this have to do with Christmas? Much in every way. Just as death and darkness give way to life and light in the yearly cycle of seasons, so also the death and darkness brought on by sin gives way to the life and light realized in the work of Jesus. Jesus' birth is celebrated when the darkness of night has reached its peak, and once he is born the light begins to wax and the darkness wanes. As the traditional German hymn (#153) reminds us:

Behold a branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flower
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

Advent Scripture Readings – This Week

Monday, Dec. 28	–	1 Sam. 1:1-12	Psalm 13	Luke 1:1-24	1 John 1:1-4
Tuesday, Dec. 29	–	1 Sam. 1:13-20	Psalm 14	Luke 1:26-38	1 John 1:5-10
Wednesday, Dec. 30	–	1 Sam. 1:21-28	Psalm 15	Luke 1:39-45	1 John 2:1-6
Thursday, Dec. 31	–	1 Sam. 2:1-11	Psalm 16	Luke 1:46-56	1 John 2:7-11
Friday, Jan. 1	–	1 Sam. 2:12-17	Psalm 17	Luke 2:57-66	1 John 2:12-17
Saturday, Jan. 2	–	1 Sam. 2:18-26	Psalm 18	Luke 2:67-80	1 John 2:18-27

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers Senior Pastor	314-842-9329 (O) 314-842-9309 (H)	John Moore Ken Pratt	314-984-9869 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
Joel Montgomery	314-984-8074		

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		

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers Senior Pastor	314-842-9329 (O) 314-842-9309 (H)	Rev. Tim Weston Pastor to International Students	314-205-2018 (Home) 814-2019 (Cell)
Rev. Joshua Anderson Associate Pastor	314-814-5213 (Home) 314-814-5213 (Cell)	Rev. Timothy LeCroy (Ast. Pastor)	314-604-2088
Paul Jaeggi, Sr. Asst. to the Pastor	314-843-7994 (Church) 314-631-4394 (Home)	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.) Melanie Carter (Secretary) Jennifer Horne (Financial Secretary)	314-966-3523 636-271-7288 314-225-5036

Pastoral Interns

Scott Pitts	314-974-1364	Dave Salyer	314-216-0019
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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	Carolan 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 Bozarth	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