

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 19, 2010

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 this morning's service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages meeting after the service at 10:50 AM. Children's Sunday school classes meet in the educational wing. The adult class meets in the fellowship hall at 11:00 AM. Lessons & Carols service tonight at 6 PM 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.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.)

Christus Victor (*Front Cover*)



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 19, 2010

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preparation For Worship: *Isaiah 59:15-21*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 59:20*

Pastor Jeffrey 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!

Behold the days are coming, declares Yahweh,

When I fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel!

I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David,

And he shall execute justice and righteousness! *Jeremiah 33:14*

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Faithful God, our heavenly Father, your promises stand unshaken through all generations; renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Savior, 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, you sent your Son into the world to deliver your captive people; Surely you have done great things for us; Yet we

continue to ignore what you have done, turn our backs on what you are doing, and forget about what you will do; Forgive us of our sinful apathy; Grant to us the assurance of salvation; Cause your Holy Spirit to work in us genuine repentance and wholehearted obedience.

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

We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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 . . .

†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.

†Hymn of Praise: The Magnificat

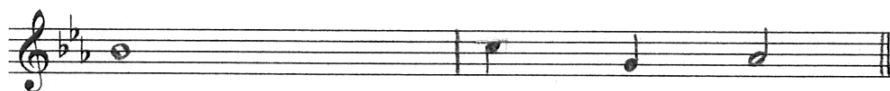
Luke 1:46-55



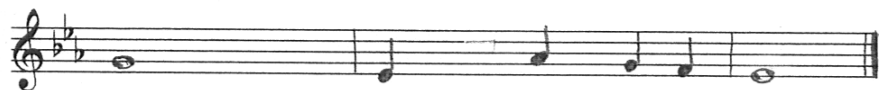
1 My soul doth magni - fy the Lord,
2 For he - hold from henceforth
3 He hath shewed strength with his arm;
4 He hath filled the hungry with good things;
5 Glory be to the Father:



1 And my spirit hath re - joiced in God my Savior.
2 All gener - ations shall call me blessed.
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 Appointed Readings for The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Isaiah 7:10-17*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn #165 "Saviour of the nations, come"

Trinity Hymnal

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-25*

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: *Acts 10*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **Peter Pigs Out**

XXIII. Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles

†Hymn #272 "Behold! the mountain of the Lord"

Trinity Hymnal

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Zion hears the watchmen's voices" Lisa Hoover, soprano

Zion hears the watchmen's voices, with gladness all her heart rejoices,
 She eager wakes to greet the day. See, her Lord from heav'n descending,
 With grace and truth and power unending, her daystar dawns with brightest ray.
 O come, thou blessed One, Lord Jesu, God's own Son, Hallelujah!
 We follow there thy feast to share, and taste the joys beyond compare.

German text and tune by Philipp Nicolai, 1599 (see hymn #231).
 English text by John Rutter, Copyright © 1970 by Oxford University Press. All Rights Reserved.
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 Arrangement by J. S. Bach from Cantata 140, *Wachet auf*, ed. John Rutter

† [Hands Raised] The *Doxology & Lord's Prayer* *Trinity Hymnal*, p. xvi

The Sacrifice of Peace

Words of Institution, Prayer of Thanksgiving, & Memorial
 Communion Hymn "Let all mortal flesh keep silence"



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence,
 2. King of Kings, yet born of Mar - y,
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en
 4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph;



and with fear and trem - bling stand;
 As of old on earth He stood,
 Spreads its van - guard on the way,
 Cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



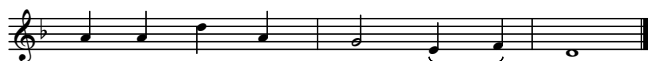
Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 Lord of Lords, in hu - man ves - ture--
 As the Light of light de - scend - eth
 Veil their fa - ces to the pres - ence,



For with bless - ing in His hand,
 In the bod - y and the blood--
 From the realms of end - less day,
 As with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 He will give to all the faith - ful
 That the powers of hell may van - ish
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



Our full hom - age to de - mand.
 His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 As the dark - ness clears a way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!

Pastoral Benediction

†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: Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Benediction

†Hymn #319 “Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing” *Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

Service of Lessons & Carols

Please join us this evening for our special Advent vespers service. It will be a festival of lessons and carols, which will include children, youth, and adult choirs, Scripture lessons read by our youth, and congregational singing as well. This service will be a special time of meditation and reflection upon the meaning of our Lord’s birth—a much needed opportunity for Christians during this hectic holiday season. Come early (5:35 PM) to hear Christmas preludes played by our young musicians. Stay late to enjoy treats and conversation down in the fellowship hall. See the announcement section for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woman of the Week:

Debbie Keane

Today's Nursery Volunteers:

Morning Service – Greeno

Sunday School – Bryan & Melanie Carter

Next Week's Nursery Volunteers:

See the sign up sheet on the WIC table.

Developing a Biblical Worldview — Join us in the fellowship hall for the adult Sunday school class on developing a biblical worldview. Audio recordings of the class can be found on the church's website.

The **College and Career Sunday School Class** is meeting in the Shields' home. All young adults are welcome.

High School Christmas Party — Tomorrow, December 20th, the high schoolers are invited to a church Christmas party. Bring a white elephant gift! The party begins at 7 PM and will be hosted by the Bozarth's.

Important End of the Year Tax Reminder — For a contribution to Providence to be considered a gift in 2010, it must be received or postmarked no later than Dec 31, 2010. Contributions received after 12/31/10 (e.g., Sunday, Jan 2, 2011) will be considered gifts in 2011.

Nursery Volunteers Needed — A new nursery sign up sheet is on the WIC table. Please sign up for three slots. Your service to our littlest members is greatly appreciated.

Offerings and Expenditures to Date:

Offerings:	\$280,838.45
Expenditures:	<u>\$304,364.57*</u>
Deficit:	(\$ 24,028.61)

* Expenses include \$12,875.00 cost to repair HVAC and \$38,552.87 cost to replace carpet.

Church Calendar

December 20	7 PM High School Christmas Party
Dec 29 - Jan 5	New Orleans Mission Trip
January 16	Parish Groups Meet
March 13	Parish Groups Meet

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Christmas Lessons & Carols — Our annual Lessons and Carols Service is **TONIGHT at 6:00 P.M.**, with the **Children's Prelude beginning at 5:35**. Please invite extended family, friends, and neighbors to hear the Christmas story read and sung. Please note the following:

1. Setup/Teardown Help — Men (including high school and college/career men), please help the Deacons with the following setup/teardown activities today and tonight:

- Setup in sanctuary after morning service
- Setup in fellowship hall after Sunday School
- Teardown in sanctuary after evening service
- Teardown in fellowship hall after evening reception

2. Reception Help — If you have cookies or finger food for the reception, please put them in the fellowship hall or kitchen. It's helpful if you bring them on a platter. For questions, contact Melanie Carter.

3. Morning Rehearsals — All singers and readers will rehearse in the Sanctuary during Sunday School today. Parents, please make sure your children attend rehearsal if they plan to participate tonight. Teachers, please attend with your classes.

4. Evening Rehearsal (Youth Choir) — The Youth Choir will have a final rehearsal at 4:45 tonight.

5. Youth Choir Dress Code (grades 7-12) — Ladies: white (or closest available light-colored) blouse or sweater/top, and black (or closest available dark) skirt and hose. Gentlemen: white (or closest available light-colored) dress shirt, necktie, black (or closest available dark) slacks, nice shoes, no jacket. Long sleeves are preferred. (There is no special dress code for the Preschool or Elementary Choirs.)

6. Children's Prelude — Children may practice in the sanctuary or the music room during the coffee break.

7. 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

5:35 PM Children's Prelude begins

5:45 PM Age 2 thru Grade 6 report to classrooms to line up

6:00 PM Service begins

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

If there are any questions, please contact Bill Hoover. Thank you!

The Lord's Service Explained

Advent Season 2010

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. 20	Isaiah 30:27–31:9	Revelation 3:1-22	Psalm 98
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Isaiah 32:1-20	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalm 132
Wednesday, Dec. 22	Isaiah 33:1-24	Revelation 5:1-14	Psalm 114
Thursday, Dec. 23	Isaiah 34:1–35:10	Revelation 6:1-17	Psalm 8
Friday, Dec. 24	Isaiah 44:21-45:25	Revelation 12:1-17	Psalm 96
Saturday, Dec. 25	Isaiah 49:1-18	Matthew 1:1-17	Psalm 2

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

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

The Deacons

Jack Boeve (Chairman)	636-461-1398	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bill Coller	314-726-6799	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Daryl Hoegemann	314-962-4874		

Women in the Church Officers

President: Denise Gerstung	314-821-9324	Nursery: Kathy Pratt	314-416-1176
Vice President: Judy Linton	636-349-9028	Anne Hiers	314-543-3010
Secretary/Treasurer:		Bethel: Rachel LeCroy	314-604-2089
Lori Shaffer	314-843-1964	Kitchen: Rosamma Weston	314-205-2018
Committee Coordinator:		Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Rhonda Hoard	636-938-3575	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
WIC advisor: Joanie Harris	636-394-6896	Joanie Harris	636-394-6896
Prayer Chain: Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Amanda Cone	314-497-7950
Carol Van Heest	314-966-5732	Wedding Coordinator:	
Brenda Svezia	svezia@sbcglobal.net	Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Missions: Debbie Keane	636-938-3108		

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-205-2018 (Home)
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	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)		

Pastoral Interns

Phillip Bozarth	270-313-6245	Scott Pitts	314-974-1364
Ryan Van Horn	314-620-3744	Steve Schlepffhorst	217-257-2592

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 & Beckv Young	Mexico