

# **The Covenant Renewal Service**

**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 27, 2011*

# 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 which meet 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. There will be no evening service 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](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.)

## 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

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The Lord's Day — November 27, 2011  
*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 [kneeling]

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:

*Psalm 47*

**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

†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.

Come let us worship and bow down.

*Psalm 95:6*

**And kneel before the Lord our Maker [Kneel]**

Let us pray.

**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 arise and hear the good news . . . !

## **Ascension**

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

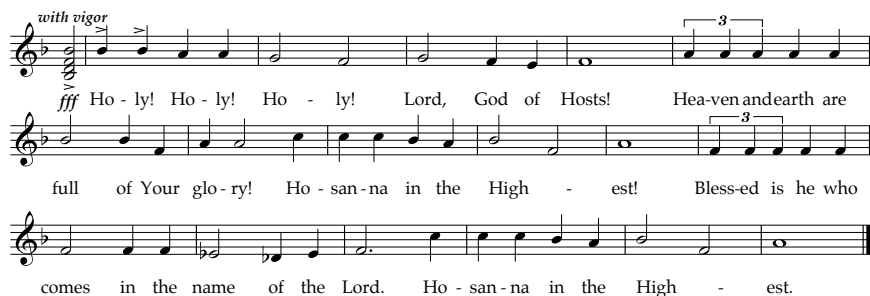
**We lift them up to the Lord!**

†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: #122 "Of the Father's love begotten" *Trinity Hymnal*  
*The Appointed Readings for The First Sunday in Advent*

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Psalter Reading: *Psalm 80:1-7*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 13:8-14*

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.

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.

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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The New Testament Reading: *1 Cor. 1:3-9*

†The Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:24-37*

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 every shall be, world  
without end. Amen, amen.**

Sermon Texts: The Appointed Advent Readings

Sermon: **The Advent(s) of God**

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn "Let the earth now praise the Lord"

*Trinity Hymnal*

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
 That, set free from doubt and dread,  
 I may cling to You in faith,  
 Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
 As the glorious king to reign,  
 I with joy will see Your face,  
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

## Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

† [Hands Raised] The *Doxology*

*Trinity Hymnal*, p. xvi

† [Hands Raised] The Lord's Prayer

## The Sacrifice of Peace

Words of Institution, Prayer of Thanksgiving, & Memorial

We Feed on the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Hymn #233 "Rejoice, all ye believers"

*Trinity Hymnal*

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: God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of our Lord, and she, full of grace, placed her life at the service of your will. Now fill us with your grace, that we too may rejoice in your great salvation and in all things embrace your will as we await the day when your will shall be done in all the earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Benediction**

†Hymn #118 “O Savior, precious Savior”

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

### **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.

# Announcements

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## *Woman of the Week:*

Joanie Harris

### **Nursery Volunteers for Today:**

Morning Service – Wooldridge

Sunday School – Gerstung, Schmidt

### **Nursery Volunteers for Next Week:**

See the sign up sheet on the WIC table

**Fall Adult Sunday School: Technology & The Christian Faith** - Join us in the fellowship hall for our Sunday School on Technology & the Christian Faith. Today's topic on "Automobiles" will be led by Josh Anderson.

**Welcome Baby Natalie Grace Craig!** — Canaan and Jenny Craig (and proud grandparents Jeff and Joanie Harris!) welcomed their new baby girl into the world. Natalie Grace was born on Wednesday, November 16 at 3:58 AM. She weighed 7 lbs, 4 oz and was 20 1/4 inches long.

**Special Evening Service December 4** — We will have a special evening worship service on December 4, with a reception to follow, to celebrate Bill Hoover's 25 years of service as our organist and 20 years as our Director of Music. Our daughter churches, Cornerstone and Resurrection, are invited to join us that evening, including participating in the choir. Please bring a platter of hors d'oeuvres to share at the reception.

**WIC Christmas Party** — Ladies, join us for a Christmas party on Friday, December 9 at 7 PM at the church. More details to come.

**Officer Nominations** — For the next several weeks, the session will be receiving officer nominations for next year. Nomination forms are available in the foyer. Several things to keep in mind this year: Elder Brad Wood will be going on a required sabbatical this year. Elders Ken Pratt, Jason Carter, and Monte Shields are finishing 3-years and are eligible for re-nomination and re-election for 3 more years. Please pray and consider your nomination carefully before submitting it to the session.

**Food Pantry Donations** — Many thanks to all who have donated to the Resurrection Food Pantry. For the next few months, the items to donate are cereal and peanut butter.

**Christmas Lessons and Carols** — Our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service will be Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 P.M. (Children's Prelude starts at 5:35.) This is a festive carol and anthem celebration involving special music from four choirs (Adult, Youth, Elementary, and Preschool). Please note the following:

1. Reception Help - Please sign up to bring cookies or finger food for the reception to follow the service, or to setup, cleanup, or serve refreshments. Sign up sheets will be available.

2. Children's and Youth Music Rehearsals are each Sunday--Preschool and Elementary rehearsals at 10:50, Youth Choir from 11:30-12:00.

NOTE: On Dec 11 and Dec 18, Grades 1-6 will rehearse in the Sanctuary for the entire Sunday School hour, joined by the Youth Choir and Adult Choir as necessary. (The Preschoolers will join for a few minutes.) Teachers, please attend with your classes.

3. Youth Choir Dress Code (grades 7-12) - Ladies: white (or light colored) blouse or sweater, and black (or dark) skirt and hose. Gentlemen: white (or light colored) dress shirt, necktie, black (or dark) slacks, nice shoes, no jacket. Long sleeves are preferred, if possible. Use closest match available; we are not intending to send anyone shopping!

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

5. Schedule for Dec 18 (Program Night):

4:00 PM Adult Choir rehearsal\* (until 4:45)

4:45 PM Youth Choir rehearsal\* (until 5:30)

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 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.

## **Church Calendar**

December 4	Memory Listening During Sunday School Special Evening Service for Bill Hoover
December 9	7 PM WIC Christmas Party
December 18	Lessons and Carols
December 19	Session Meeting

# The Lord's Service Explained

## Advent Season 2011

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. 28	Isaiah 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12	Psalms 24
Tuesday, Nov. 29	Isaiah 2:1-22	1 Peter 1:13-25	Psalms 122
Wednesday, Nov. 30	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12	Psalms 33
Thursday, Dec. 1	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25	Psalms 50
Friday, Dec. 2	Isaiah 7:10-8:8	1 Peter 3:1-22	Psalms 18:1-20
Saturday, Dec. 3	Isaiah 8:9-9:7	1 Peter 4:1-19	Psalms 102

# 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