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 18, 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 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. Our Lessons & Carols service is tonight at 6 PM.

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 18, 2011
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preparation For Worship: *Psalm 89:1-18*
Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover
Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation [kneeling]
Call to Worship: *Isaiah 89:1-5* Pastor Jeffrey Meyers
†Hymn #101 (*Psalm 89*) "My song" *Trinity Hymnal* (Tune of #44)
†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!

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Yahweh, *Psalm 89: 5, 14-6*
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
Steadfast love and faithfulness go before you!

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
Who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,

Who exult in your Name all the day;
And in your righteousness are exalted.

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Stir up, O Lord, your power, and come, and with great might rescue us, that by the help of your grace, whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be quickly accomplished through your mercy and faithfulness; through our Lord Jesus 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:

> [Kneeling] 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!

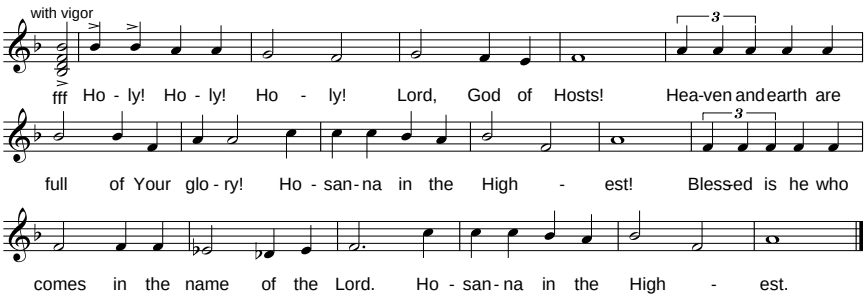
! We lift them up to the Lord!

†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



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: Almighty God, you have made all things to serve you; now prepare the world to receive your rule. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, to end war and oppression, to cleanse all corruption, to crush the head of Satan, to destroy death itself, to wipe away every tear, to heal every pain, and to make all things new so that your glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Amen.

Benediction

†Hymn #76 (*Psalm 138*) "With grateful heart"! *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. 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

Nursery Volunteers for Today:
Morning Service – Amanda Cone & Lu Greeno
Sunday School – Melanie Carter & Katie Ames
Evening – Moore
Nursery Volunteers for Next Week:
Morning Service – Moore

Who is Jesus? — We will end the year with a three-Sunday adult education class on "The Person of Jesus Christ." We will answer questions about the deity of Christ, his human nature, the reason for the virgin birth, and more.

Special Collection Tonight — Tonight, at Lessons and Carols, we will be taking a special collection for our missionary children.

Welcome Baby Greeno! — Congratulations to Adam and Melanie Greeno on the birth of their new baby boy, Mitchell Scott. Mitchell was born on November 30 at 11:12 AM. He weighed 7 lbs and was 20" long.

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.

End of Year Tax Reminder — For a contribution to Providence to be considered a gift in 2011, it must be received or postmarked on or before Saturday, Dec 31, 2011. Any contribution received or postmarked after 12/31/11 (e.g., Sunday, Jan 1, 2012) will be considered a gift in 2012.

Church Calendar

December 19	Session Meeting
December 24	7 PM Christmas Eve Service
December 25	11 AM Morning Worship, No Sunday School
January 1	11 AM Morning Worship, No Sunday School
January 12	Ladies' Bible Study Resumes

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 Lori Shaffer.

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. (Preschool and Elementary students should report to their normal music classrooms.)

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 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