

# **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 Third Sunday in Advent**

*December 11, 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. Evening service will be 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](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 — December 11, 2011

*The Third Sunday in Advent*

**Preparation For Worship:** *Isaiah 61:1-11*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

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## The Entrance

Silent Preparation [kneeling]

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:

[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 arise and hear the good news . . . !

## Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

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

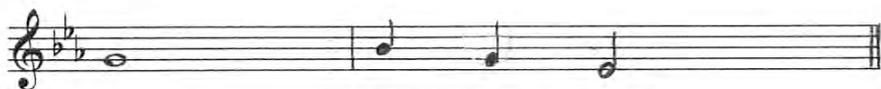
†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**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.



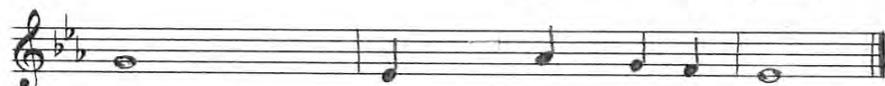
1 My soul doth magni - fy the Lord,  
 2 For be - hold from henceforth  
 3 He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
 4 He hath filled the hungry with good things;  
 5 Glory be to the Father:



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 Appointed Readings for The Third Sunday in Advent*

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11* Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

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

*Trinity Hymnal*

†The Gospel Reading: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

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: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **The Christian Life in a Nutshell**

### **III. Advent Sermons**

Hymn #117 "Shepherd of tender youth"

*Trinity Hymnal*

## Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Take my life and let it be" (Hymn #492)

Quartet

Mrs. Lisa Grove, Mrs. Sam Schleppehorst, Mr. Jack Boeve, Rev. Tim Weston  
Arr. and piano, Mr. Bill Hoover

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

## The Sacrifice of Peace

Words of Institution, Prayer of Thanksgiving, & Memorial  
Communion Hymn "The Advent of Our King"

### The Advent of Our King

Zech. 9: 9

Instantis adventum Dei

Charles Coffin, 1738

Tr., John Chandler, 1857, att.

S. M.

St. Thomas

Aaron Williams, 1770

1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be;  
3 O Zi - on's Daugh-ter, rise To meet thy low - ly King,  
4 As Judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain

And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him-self a serv-ant's form puts on To set His serv-ants free.  
Nor let thy faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign. A-men.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The old man all be put away,  
The new man all put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One,  
Through all eternity.

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

## **The Evening Service**

Sunday, December 11, 2011 – 6:00 PM

Scripture Reading: *Psalms 126*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn #290 (*Psalms 126*) “When in his might the Lord” *Trinity Hymnal*

Prayer Requests & Prayer [kneeling]

Deacons’ Fund Collection

†Hymn #348 (*Psalms 134*) “O bless our God” *Trinity Hymnal*

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 3:13-17*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

Sermon: **THE WATER OF NEW CREATION**

**III. EXPOSITION OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS**

†Hymn: #268 “Christ is made the sure Foundation” *Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction & Postlude

# Announcements

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## **Nursery Volunteers for Today:**

Morning Service – Shaffer Boys  
Sunday School – Marianne Pitts & Christine Greeno  
Evening – Montgomery

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

Morning Service – Amanda Cone & Lu Greeno  
Sunday School – Melanie Carter & Katie Ames  
Evening – Moore

**Who is Jesus?** — We will end the year with a three-Sunday adult education class on "The Person of Jesus Christ." Pastor Meyers will use the Advent season to examine what the Bible says about the Person and nature (s) of Jesus. We will answer questions about the deity of Christ, his human nature, the reason for the virgin birth, and more.

**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. If you would like to meet little Mitchell and give your congratulations to Melanie in person, please come to a baby welcome party at Christine Greeno's home tomorrow night (Dec 12) at 7 PM. See the sign up sheet on the WIC table.

**Woman of the Week** — Ladies, we have reached the last of the names of the "Woman of the Week". Thank you all for your participation. We hope it was an encouragement to you all!

**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.

To my dear Providence Family, thank you for making last Sunday evening so special, including your very gracious gift of the St. Louis Symphony gift certificate and the lovely reception. Thank you for worshiping with and celebrating with me and making me and my family feel very loved, honored, and appreciated.

Warmly in Christ, Bill Hoover

**Christmas Lessons and Carols** — Our annual Lessons and Carols Service is **next Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 P.M.**, with the **Children's Prelude beginning at 5:40**. This festive carol and anthem celebration includes music from four choirs (Adult, Youth, Elementary, and Preschool) and is a great opportunity to invite extended family, friends, and neighbors to hear the Christmas story read and sung. Please note the following:

1. **Reception Help** - Please sign up to bring cookies or finger food for the reception to follow the service. Helpers are also needed to setup, cleanup, and serve refreshments - please signup at WIC table in narthex.

2. **Sunday School Rehearsals** - All students should report to class as usual. All classes will practice their Christmas music at the usual times (Preschool and Elementary at 10:50; Youth Choir at 11:30). All participating students should be sure to attend music rehearsals this week and next!

3. **Youth Choir Attire** (grades 7-12) - Ladies: white (or closest light-colored) blouse or top, 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.

4. **Children's Prelude** - If your child is planning to play a Christmas carol as part of the Children's Prelude, please notify Barb or Bill Hoover. Children may practice in the sanctuary or the music room today and next Sunday during the coffee break.

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

**5:40 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.

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

## **Church Calendar**

December 18	6 PM Lessons and Carols
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

# 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, Dec. 12	Isaiah 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24	Psalms 110
Tuesday, Dec. 13	Isaiah 26:20-27:13	1 John 4:1-20	Psalms 67
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Isaiah 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21	Psalms 91
Thursday, Dec. 15	Isaiah 29:1-14	Jude 1-25	Psalms 16
Friday, Dec. 16	Isaiah 29:15-30:14	Revelation 1:1-20	Psalms 62
Saturday, Dec. 17	Isaiah 30:15-26	Revelation 2:1-29	Psalms 72

# 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