

# **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 16, 2012*

# 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 11:40 AM. Children's Sunday school classes will be practicing for the Lessons & Carols service. Join us tonight for our annual Lessons & Carols Christmas Service 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](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 16, 2012  
*The Third Sunday in Advent*

**Preparation For Worship:** *Revelation 22:1-21*

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 #132 "Wondrous King"

*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!

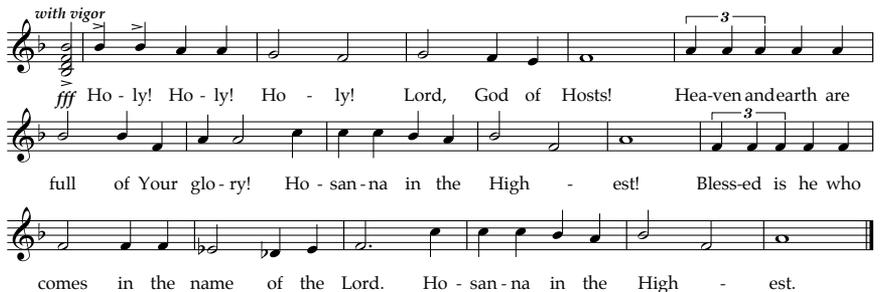
**We lift them up to the Lord!**

†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.

†Hymn of Praise: *The Magnificat*

*Luke 1:46-55*



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 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 Second Sunday in Advent*

The Hebrew Scripture: *Zephaniah 3:14-20* Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Psalter Reading: *Psalms 73:1-20*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The New Testament Epistle Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 7:18-35*

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 Texts: The Appointed Advent Readings      Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **Exactly What Do You Expect from God?**

## **Tribute Offering**

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming"

Jonathan Wooldridge, violin  
Bill Hoover, arr. and piano

† [Hands Raised] The Doxology

*Trinity Hymnal*, p. xvi

†Prayer of the Church (from the Lord's Prayer)

Pastor: God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, your needy children, and grant us grace that your holy Name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of your Word and the fervent love shown in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby your holy Name is borne by us in an empty and profane way. Lord in your mercy,

Congregation: **hear our prayer!**

May your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Strengthen us by your Spirit according to your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to your good and gracious will. Into your merciful hands we commend our family and friends, indeed, all who are in need, praying for them at all times that your will be done. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us to trust in you to provide for all our needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in good conscience before you, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his crafty schemes. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

We trust, O Lord, in your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen!**

## The Sacrifice of Peace

Words of Institution, Prayer of Thanksgiving, & Memorial

We Feed on the Body and Blood of Christ

Hymn #362 "Let thy blood and mercy poured"

*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: 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.

**Amen.**

## Benediction

†Hymn #81 "A mighty Fortress is our God"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

## 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**

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## **Today's Nursery Volunteers:**

Morning Service – Boeve

Sunday School – Ami Anderson & Lu Greeno

Evening Prayer Service – No Nursery (Lessons and Carols)

## **Next Week's Nursery Volunteers**

Morning Service – Gibbs

Sunday School – Denise Gerstung & Melanie Carter

Evening Prayer Service – Horne

**The Whole Bible in a Year** — Join us in the fellowship hall as we continue our Sunday school class that takes us through a summary of the books of the Bible.

**End of Year Tax Reminder** — For a contribution to Providence to be considered a gift in 2012, it must be received or postmarked on or before Monday, Dec 31, 2012. Any contribution received or postmarked after Monday, Dec 31, 2012 will be considered a gift in 2013.

## **Budget Report** May-November 2012

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| General Offerings               | \$218,712        |
| Offerings Needed to Meet Budget | \$251,417        |
| Current Deficit                 | <b>\$-32,705</b> |

## **General Information**

**Bulletin Announcements** – If you would like to put an announcement in the bulletin, email Melanie Carter at [cartersonthehill@gmail.com](mailto:cartersonthehill@gmail.com) or call Paul Jaeggi. All announcements must be submitted by noon on Wednesday.

**Church Calendar** – If you would like to plan a church event within or outside of the church building (or use the church building for non-PRPC events) please check with Melanie Carter to ensure that your event will not conflict with a previous arrangement.

# 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. Note the following:

**1. Setup/Teardown Help** — 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. If you have questions, see Dottie Devlin.

**3. Morning Rehearsals** — All singers and readers will rehearse in the Sanctuary during Sunday School. Parents, make sure your children attend rehearsal if they plan to participate tonight. Teachers, 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 Young Musicians' Prelude participants report to choir loft

**5:35 PM Young Musicians' Prelude begins**

5:50 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 2012

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. 17    | Isaiah 26:1-19     | 1 John 3:1-24     | Psalms 110 |
| Tuesday, Dec. 18   | Isaiah 26:20–27:13 | 1 John 4:1-20     | Psalms 67  |
| Wednesday, Dec. 19 | Isaiah 28:14-29    | 1 John 5:1-21     | Psalms 91  |
| Thursday, Dec. 20  | Isaiah 29:1-14     | Jude 1-25         | Psalms 16  |
| Friday, Dec. 21    | Isaiah 29:15–30:14 | Revelation 1:1-20 | Psalms 62  |
| Saturday, Dec. 22  | 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.) | 314-814-5213     | Monte Shields (Clerk) | 314-849-0597 |
| Jason Carter                | 636-257-2441     | Allan Wamsley         | 314-560-9602 |
| Richard Hiers               | 314-543-3010     |                       |              |

## The Deacons

|                       |              |                |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Jack Boeve (Chairman) | 636-461-1398 | Steve Shaffer  | 314-843-1964 |
| Bryan Carter          | 636-271-7288 | Pat Staebel    | 314-303-4369 |
| Dan Hayes             | 314-984-9814 | Paul Svezia    | 314-406-9101 |
| Daryl Hoegemann       | 314-962-4874 | Bob Wooldridge | 314-963-9671 |

## Women in the Church Officers

|                               |                      |                          |  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| President: Lu Greeno          | 618-538-5885         | Bethel:                  | Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung,<br>Crystal Schmidt, Marianne Pitts,<br>Vivienne Greeno |
| Vice President: Dottie Devlin | 314-821-0360         |                          |  |
| Secretary/Treasurer:          |                      |                          |  |
| Erin VanHorn                  | 314-620-3733         | Kitchen: Rosamma Weston  | 314-205-2018   |
| Prayer Chain: Doris Daily     | 314-961-8799         | Tracy Boeve              | 636-461-1398   |
| Carolann Van Heest            | 314-966-5732         | Hospitality: Barb Hoover | 314-966-3523   |
| Brenda Svezia                 | svezia@sbcglobal.net | Deborah Shields          | 314-849-0597   |
| Nursery: Christine Greeno     | 618-514-0935         | Wedding Coordinator:     |  |
| Melanie Greeno                | 518-926-9046         | Barb Hoover              | 314-966-3523   |

## 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          | Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)         | 314-966-3523               |
| Pastor of Congregational Care & Discipleship |                       | Melanie Carter (Secretary)       | 636-271-7288               |
| Paul Jaeggi, Sr.                             | 314-843-7994 (Church) |                                  | cartersonthehill@gmail.com |
| Asst. to the Pastor                          | 314-631-4394 (Home)   |                                  |                            |

## Pastoral Interns

|                |              |                     |              |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Matt Teeselink | 563-579-3674 | Steve Schleppehorst | 217-257-2592 |
| Ryan Van Horn  | 314-620-3744 |                     |              |

## 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          |