

The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



The Second Sunday in Advent
December 9, 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 meet in the educational wing. The adult class meets in the fellowship hall. Join us for our Evening Prayer Service 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 9, 2012
The Second Sunday in Advent

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

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation [kneeling]

Call to Worship: *Revelation 22:16-17* Pastor Joshua Anderson

†Hymn #145 "Come, thou long expected Jesus" *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!

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God! *Isa. 40:3*

According to his promise, we wait for a new heavens
and a new earth,

In which righteousness dwells! *2 Peter 3:13*

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, age after age. Amen!

Purification

†Pastor: Let us humbly bow our heads before the Lord and confess our sins.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;
My eyes are not raised too high. *Psalms 131:1-2*

I do not occupy myself with things,
Too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child with its mother.

Let us kneel and 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
ff 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: #83 "We praise thee, O God"

Trinity Hymnal

The Appointed Readings for The Second Sunday in Advent

The Hebrew Scripture: *Malachi 3:1-7a*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Psalter Reading: *Psalms 66:1-12*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn "Awake, awake and strengthen"

(to tune of #178)

**Awake, awake and strengthen
The things about to die,
The works yet unperfected,
Before the Lord draws nigh.
But if thou be not watchful,
If thou dost not repent,
The Lord shall come upon thee
When thou dost least expect.**

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| Text: Adapted from Rev. 3:1-6 by Bill Hoover © 1999 Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729 |
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**For him that overcometh,
This glorious state shall be:
His garments all resplendent
In whitest purity,
His name inscribed forever
Within the Book of Life,
Confessed before the Father
And holy angels bright.**

**But, lo! thou hast a remnant
With garments yet unstained,
Who, undefiled, have labored
And faithful have remained.
They flee from all temptation,
They triumph in the fight;
The Lord hath found them worthy,
And they shall walk in white.**

The Epistle Reading: *Philippians 1:2-11*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:1-14*

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: **How Christmas Changes Everything, Part II**

†Hymn #148 "Comfort, Comfort ye my people" *Trinity Hymnal*

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Let all together praise our God"

Choir

Let all together praise our God
Before his glorious throne;
Today he opens heav'n again
To give us his own Son.

He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us his realm,
His glory and his name.

Text: Nikolaus Herman (c. 1480-1561),
tr. F. Samuel Janzow (b. 1913),
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Music: Nikolaus Herman,
arr. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621),
ed. Carl F. Schalk, 1994

He is the key and he the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more,
To God our praises rise.

† [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: 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; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

†Hymn #238 "Christ is coming!"

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude & Greet One Another

The Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, December 9, 2012 – 6:00 PM

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 66:13-20*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Psalm 66 (sts. 1-5) “Let all the earth”

Anglo-Genevan Psalter

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading: *2 Peter 2:9-22*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

Sermon: **WAITING FOR THE LORD’S JUDGMENT IN ADVENT**

IV. EXPOSITION OF PETER’S SECOND EPISTLE

†Psalm 66 (sts. 6-8) “Thy holy temple”

Anglo-Genevan Psalter

Prayer Requests & Prayer [kneeling]

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Deacon’s Offering

†Hymn #239 “The mighty God, the Lord”

Trinity Hymnal

†Benediction & Postlude

Sermon Notes and Prayer Requests

Announcements

Today's Nursery Volunteers:

Morning Service – Kheylya Murrell & Melanie Greeno

Sunday School – Horne

Evening Prayer Service – Cassie Linton & Linda Wolff

Next Week's Nursery Volunteers

Morning Service – Boeve

Sunday School – Ami Anderson & Lu Greeno

Evening Prayer Service – No Nursery (Lessons and Carols)

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.

Deacons Fund Collection — The Deacons' Fund Offering will take place tonight. Please consider donating to this fund. The money goes directly to assist families in our congregation and community.

WIC Christmas Party — Ladies, please come to our annual Christmas party this week. Missionary boxes will be assembled during the evening. Bring a dish or drink to share. See the WIC table for all the details and to sign up.

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-October 2012

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Offerings | \$192,617.73 |
| Offerings Needed to Meet Budget | \$215,499.98 |
| Current Deficit | \$-22,882.25 |

Our **Christmas Lessons and Carols Service** will be **Sunday evening December 16**. This glorious service features Scripture readings, carols and hymns, choir anthems, and an extended prelude by our children and youth. The service is followed by a reception with refreshments. Some important notes:

1. **Reception Help** - Please sign up at the booktable to bring cookies or finger food next Sunday morning on a serving platter for the reception to follow the service. More people are needed to sign up for setup, cleanup, and serving refreshments. Please contact Dottie Devlin for details.

2. **Music Rehearsals** for all ages continue during Sunday School today and next week. We need 100% attendance today and next Sunday!

3. **Youth Choir Attire** (grades 7-12) - Ladies: white (or ivory, etc.) top, and black (or dark) skirt and hose. Gentlemen: white (or ivory, etc.) dress shirt (preferably long sleeved), necktie, black (or dark) slacks, and your best shoes. (NOTE: There is no special dress code for grade 6 and younger.)

4. **Young Musicians' Prelude** - TODAY is the last day to sign up at the book table to play a sacred carol as part of the Prelude. Students can practice in the loft or choir room today and next Sunday, during the coffee break and after Sunday School.

5. **Schedule for Dec 16 PM:**

- 4:00-4:45 PM Adult Choir rehearsal*
- 4:45-5:25 PM Youth Choir rehearsal* and final lineup
- 5:30 PM Children's Prelude participants report to choir loft
- 5:35 PM Children's 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 for any 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. 10 | Isaiah 9:8–10:11 | 1 Peter 5:1-14 | Psalms 25 |
| Tuesday, Dec. 11 | Isaiah 10:12-34 | 2 Peter 1:1-21 | Psalms 40 |
| Wednesday, Dec. 12 | Isaiah 11:1–12:6 | 2 Peter 2:1-22 | Psalms 85 |
| Thursday, Dec. 13 | Isaiah 14:1-23 | 1 Peter 3:1-18 | Psalms 14 |
| Friday, Dec. 14 | Isaiah 24:1-13 | 1 John 1:1–2:14 | Psalms 126 |
| Saturday, Dec. 15 | Isaiah 24:14–25:12 | 1 John 2:15-25 | Psalms 130 |

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, Crystal Schmidt, Marianne Pitts, 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 |