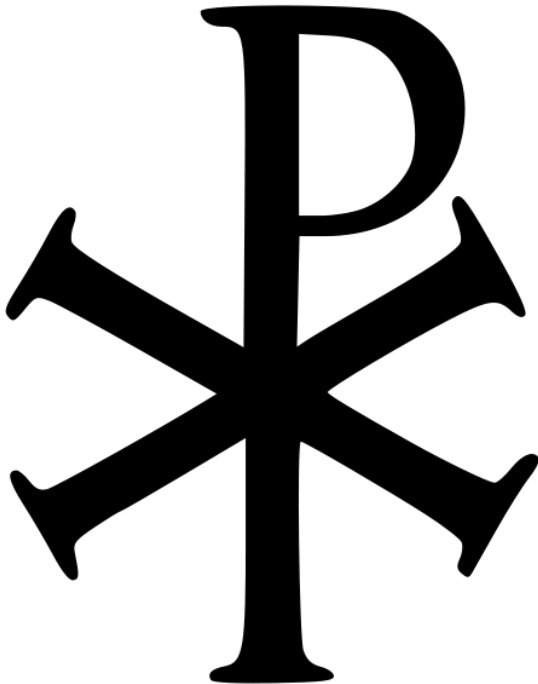


The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

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



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2013

Welcome

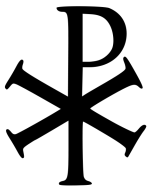
If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use 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 11:10 AM. Children's Sunday school classes meet in the educational wing. The adult class meets in the fellowship hall. 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.

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).

The Chi Rho (*Front Cover*)



The Chi-Rho is the oldest known monogram of Jesus Christ. It is sometimes known as a "Christogram". The *chi* and the *rho* are the first two letters of the word Christ (*Christos*) in the Greek language. The *chi* (X) = ch and the *rho* (P) = r. The Greek word *christos* translates the Hebrew word for "Messiah," which means "anointed one." Jesus was born to be the promised anointed Priest and King.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are **purple**. The traditional color for Advent season is purple, which symbolizes royalty, specifically the Lordship of Jesus.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — December 22, 2013
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preparation For Worship: *Psalm 111*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation [kneeling]

Call to Worship: *Psalm 111:1-3*

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!

Yahweh has caused his wondrous works to be memorialized;

He is gracious and merciful!

He provides food for those who fear him;

He remembers his covenant forever!

Psalm 111:4-5

†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, arise and hear the good news . . . !

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

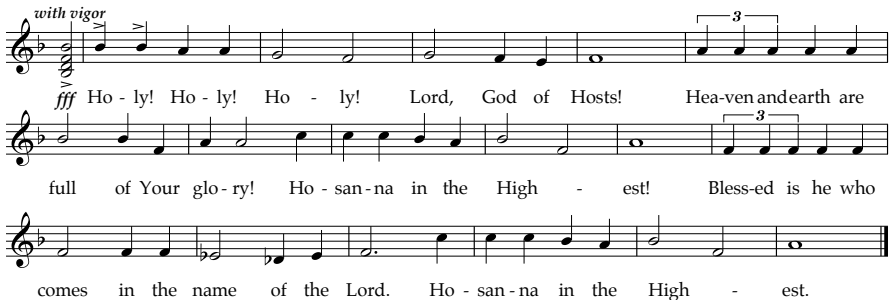
We lift them up to the Lord!

†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.

The Readings for The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *1 John 4:7-16*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Song “The Lord sent Angel Gabriel”

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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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.

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

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: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

Sermon: **The Good News of the Virgin Birth**

†Hymn #163 "To us a Child of hope is born"

Trinity Hymnal

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

†[Hands Raised] The Doxology

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

†Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Almighty God, all that we possess is from your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor you with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Continue to grant us grace to use these tithes and

offerings to advance your kingdom and bring honor and glory to your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen!**

And now we continue to pray as our Lord has taught us . . .

†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 #155 "All praise to thee, Eternal Lord"

Trinity Hymnal

†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, mercifully hear the prayers of your people, that as we rejoice in the humble advent of your only-begotten Son, so when he comes again in his majesty, we may receive the reward of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Congregation: **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

Announcements

Today's Nursery Volunteers:

Morning Service – Bryan Carter Family
Sunday School – Denney Family

Next Week's Nursery Volunteers

Morning Service – John Moore Family
Evening Prayer Service – John Moore Family

Christmas Eve Vespers Service — Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Vespers service on Tuesday, December 24 at 7PM. We will be hearing Scripture readings, praying, and singing Christmas hymns, including "Silent Night" by candle light.

No Sunday School next week, December 29 — Every year we suspend adult and children's Sunday school the Sunday after Christmas. Classes will resume on January 5.

Pastor Anderson on Vacation — Associate Pastor Joshua Anderson will be on vacation from December 26 – January 3.

Introduction to Providence Sunday School Class — This class will meet during the Sunday School hour from 11:10AM-12PM in the sanctuary, beginning on January 5, 2014. The class is intended to provide an introduction to our church, as well as to welcome our recent visitors and new members. Please speak to Pastor Anderson if you're interested in attending.

End of Year Tax Reminder — For a contribution to Providence to be considered a gift in 2013, it must be received or postmarked on or before Monday, Dec 31, 2013. Any contribution received or postmarked after Monday, Dec 31, 2013 will be considered a gift in 2014.

Budget Summary May 1 - November 30, 2013 (7 months)

Year-to-date budget	\$231,058
Year-to-date giving	207,191
Year-to-date spending	229,781

Sermon Notes and Prayer Requests

The Lord's Service Explained

Advent Season 2013

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. 16	Isaiah 26:1-9	1 John 3:1-24	Psalm 110
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Isaiah 26:20–27:13	1 John 4:1-20	Psalm 67
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Isaiah 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21	Psalm 91
Thursday, Dec. 19	Isaiah 29:1-14	Jude 1-25	Psalm 16
Friday, Dec. 20	Isaiah 29:15–30:14	Rev. 1:1-20	Psalm 62
Saturday, Dec. 21	Isaiah 30:15-26	Rev. 2:1-29	Psalm 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	Pat Staebel	314-303-4369
Bryan Carter	314-296-8302	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Lane Greeno	314-229-0801	Todd Tageson	314-892-8982
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Steve Shaffer	314-616-9062		

Women in the Church Officers

President: Lu Greeno	618-538-5885	Bethel:	Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung, Crystal Schmidt
Vice President: Dottie Devlin	314-821-0360	Kitchen:	Rosamma Weston 314-205-2018
Secretary/Treasurer:		Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Keyla Murrell		Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Prayer Chain:		Deborah Shields	314-849-0597
Donna Byerly	madonna.byerly@att.net	Wedding Coordinator:	Barb Hoover 314-966-3523
Nursery: Mary Beth Denney, Kerie Griggs, Ryan Herweck			

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Ryan Van Horn, Youth Pastor	314-620-3744
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-814-2019
Rev. Joshua Anderson	314-814-5213	Pastor to International Students	
Pastor of Congregational Care & Discipleship		Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)	Madeline Mitchell (Secretary)	314-724-4117
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)		madelineleah@gmail.com

Pastoral Interns

Matt Teeselink	563-579-3674	Ryan Van Horn	314-620-3744
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Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Lian & Clara Tombing	India
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Dan & Becky Young	Mexico
Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia		