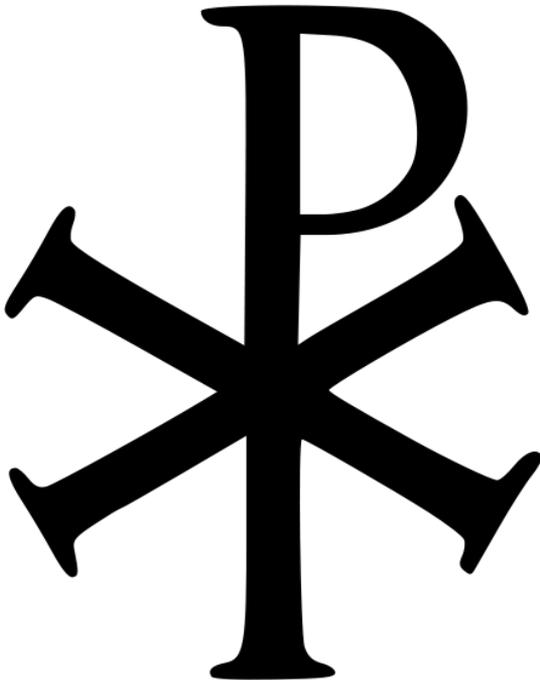


# **The Covenant Renewal Service**

**Providence Reformed  
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126  
314-843-7994 [www.providencestlouis.com](http://www.providencestlouis.com)



**The First Sunday After Christmas**  
*December 29, 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. All Sunday school classes are suspended for this Sunday. We will have our evening service of prayer and praise 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](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).

## 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

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The Lord's Day — December 29, 2013

*The First Sunday after Christmas*

**Preparation For Worship:** *Psalm 111*

Organ - Mr. Dan Hayes

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

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## The Entrance

Silent Preparation [kneeling]

Call to Worship: *Luke 2:8-14*

Youth Pastor Ryan Van Horn

†Hymn #164 "Angels, from the realms of glory" *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!**

Unto us a Child is born;

*Isaiah 9:6*

**Unto us a Son is given!**

And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called,

**Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

**God of grace, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. 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.

Come let us worship and bow down;

*Psalm 95:6*

**And kneel before the Lord, our Maker.** [congregation kneels]

Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. I humbly confess my sins and ask for your mercy. Have mercy on me, O God, because of your lovingkindness. In your great compassion, cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *Silent prayer. 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 good, right, and beneficial that we should give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have given us a new revelation of your glory so that knowing you in the Person of your Son, we may be drawn to love you and your people. 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: #169 "Who is this?" *Trinity Hymnal*  
*The Appointed Readings for the First Sunday After Christmas*  
The Old Testament Reading: *1 Samuel 7:1-16* Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Reading: *Galatians 4:1-7*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Hymn #160 "God rest you merry, gentlemen"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:22-40*

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: *James 5:16-20*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **Season Finale**

**XVII. Exposition of the Epistle of James**

# †The Magnificat



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.

## 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 . . .

†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 #115 "None other Lamb" *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: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ; grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; in the name of him who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Congregation: **Amen!**

## **Benediction**

† Hymn #159 "Good Christian men, rejoice!" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude

# The Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, December 29, 2013 – 6 PM

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Scripture Reading: *John 1:1-18*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

†Hymn #166 "From heaven on high"

*Trinity Hymnal*

Opening Prayer & Hymn Sing

Scripture Reading: *Genesis 29:1-30*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: **OF WATER, WELLS, & BRIDES**

**EXPOSITION OF THE LIFE OF JACOB**

†Psalm 45 "My heart has found a ready theme"

(see handout)

Prayer Requests & Prayer

†Hymn #339 "O Trinity, most blessed light"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction

## Sermon Notes and Prayer Requests

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# Announcements

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

Morning Service – John Moore Family

Evening Prayer Service – John Moore Family

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

Morning Service – See sign-up sheet

Sunday School – See sign-up sheet

**No Sunday School Today** — Every year we suspend adult and children's Sunday school the Sunday after Christmas. Classes will resume on January 5.

**New Adult Sunday School Classes** — Beginning Sunday, January 12th, the adult Sunday school class will be studying the book of Exodus. The title of the class will be "From Slavery to Sabbath." The plan is to get to know the story of the Exodus as well as dip into the laws in the later portion of the book that deal with moral and ritual issues for the Israel. As always, we will apply what we learn to our current situation as Christians.

Pastor Anderson will be teaching a "new members" class in the sanctuary at the same time. There will be more information on that class in next week's bulletin.

## **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

**End of Year Tax Reminder** — For a contribution to Providence to be considered a gift in 2013, it must be received or postmarked no later than Tuesday, Dec 31, 2013. Any contribution received or postmarked after Dec 31, 2013 will be considered a gift in 2014.

**Pastor Anderson on Vacation** — Associate Pastor Joshua Anderson will be on vacation until January 3.

# The Lord's Service Explained

## Christmas Season

Just as the great redemptive events recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures were keyed to the changes in the seasons—Passover in the Spring means life from the dead—so also the church has ordered her Scripture readings and prayers so that the life of Christ would be correlated to the symbolic changes evident in the seasons of the year. Easter, for example, is celebrated in the Spring when the entire created order is symbolically restored from death to life.

Consider how this works for Christmas. Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25th? Not because anyone really believed that Jesus was actually born on this date--although the early church had good reasons to suspect a winter birth. Nor is it the case, as some maliciously teach, that the church gullibly adopted a pagan Roman holiday, the festival of the Invincible Sun (*Dies Natalis Dei Solis Invicti*). The early church was not so naïve. The date was picked for symbolic reasons.

The winter solstice occurs around December 25th (solstice from the Latin: *sol* = sun, and *sistere* = to stand still). This is the time of the year when the Sun reaches its southern-most extremity (or to put it another way, it is the point on the Sun's ecliptic at which it is the farthest south). The longest night and the shortest day occur at this point, and from this day onward the days get longer and the nights get shorter. The darkness of winter begins to give way to the light and warmth of Spring and Summer. This continues until the summer solstice when the other extreme is reached.

What does this have to do with Christmas? Much in every way. Just as death and darkness give way to life and light in the yearly cycle of seasons, so also the death and darkness brought on by sin gives way to the life and light realized in the work of Jesus. Jesus' birth is celebrated when the darkness of night has reached its peak, and once he is born the light begins to wax and the darkness wanes. As the traditional German hymn (#153) reminds us:

Behold a branch is growing  
Of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sung, foreknowing;  
It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little Flower  
In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.

## Christmas Scripture Readings – This Week

Monday, Dec 30 –	1 Sam. 1:1-12	Psalm 13	Luke 1:1-24	1 John 1:1-4
Tuesday, Dec 31 –	1 Sam. 1:13-20	Psalm 14	Luke 1:26-38	1 John 1:5-10
Wednesday, Jan 1 –	1 Sam. 1:21-28	Psalm 15	Luke 1:39-45	1 John 2:1-6
Thursday, Jan 2 –	1 Sam. 2:1-11	Psalm 16	Luke 1:46-56	1 John 2:7-11
Friday, Jan 3 –	1 Sam. 2:12-17	Psalm 17	Luke 2:57-66	1 John 2:12-17
Saturday, Jan 4 –	1 Sam. 2:18-26	Psalm 18	Luke 2:67-80	1 John 2:18-27



# 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		