

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2011 11:00 p.m.

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Red)

Prelude "Prelude on "Cranham" Malcolm Archer
Prelude on "Stile Nacht" Norman Warren

Welcome

Musical Offering Two Carols arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"
Bells of Providence

+Greeting*

One: God is the shining star in every dark sky,

All: The kindness in every embrace,

One: The love in every gift given,

All: The joy in every new birth.

One: God is the hope in every deep sigh,

All: The good news in the angels' song,

One: The peace in every night's rest,

All: The delight in every carol sung.

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

+Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238

Prayer

Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle* Pam and Glenn Jones

Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is here!

These candles now burn with a message so clear:

Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is here!

God's kingdom is coming, God's kingdom is here!

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 **Thanks be to God.**
Solo "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Steve Taylor

+Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon "Treasured Words"
Anthem "In The Bleak Midwinter" arr. Bradley Ellingboe

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, those things done and left undone. Help us to treasure your grace-filled Word in our hearts. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Glory to God!

Alleluia! Amen.

+The Peace

Offering Our Gifts "What Child is This" and "Away in a Manger"

Anna Sculthorpe, guitar

+Response*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Response:* **O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,**

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

You are invited to come with open hands to receive the bread and dip it lightly into the juice.

Gluten-free wafers are also available as you come.

+Hymn "Silent Night" UMH 239

With the Chancel Choir

+Lighting of the candles (pass the light by tipping the unlit candle)

+Benediction

+Postlude

Improvisation on "Antioch"

+ Please stand as you are able.

Welcome to **Providence United Methodist Church**. If you are looking for a place to belong, be transformed by God's love and make a difference in the world, you have found it. We worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. We also invite you to any of the following activities:

Christmas Day worship, 10:00 am

Wednesday Night Dinners starting January 11, 5:30-6:15

- Small groups starting January 11 at 6:30 p.m.:
 - Children and Youth Hands-on Mission
 - Learn to Knit or Crochet to make a difference
 - Bible Study "Faith from the Backside"
 - DVD-based study, "They Like Jesus, But Not the Church"
- Cross Trainers—Youth Group for 5th and 6th graders; Sundays at 12:15
- Youth Choir—Sundays at 4:30 for grades 7-12
- Youth Group—Sundays at 5:30 for grades 7-12
- Small group for couples' support and fellowship beginning February 24
- Beginning March 4, contemporary worship service at 9 a.m.

If you want to know more about Providence and finding a more personal connection with God through Jesus, please contact **Pastor Mary Beth Blinn**. You may reach her at the church (276-4289), at home (562-5169) or at Marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net.

Tonight's **Christmas offering** will go to three mission projects: **Pathways** in Petersburg, VA offering GED and jobs skills, medical clinic and addiction counseling; **Branches** Ministry for children and youth in Florida City, Florida; **Haiti Children's Project** providing a safe and loving home for children without families. All cash and gifts marked "Christmas Offering" will support these important projects. Gifts in regular church offering envelopes will go to the operating budget of the church.

Are you or is someone you know looking for an **excellent preschool and extended hours**? Our preschool will be offering extended hours from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. beginning soon. This arrangement is great for working parents, parents who are taking classes, and those who would like a flexible pick-up and drop-off. For more information, contact the Preschool at 276-1462.

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Advent Wreath liturgy is from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and reproduced by permission.



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