

Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2011, 8:45 a.m.
Holy Communion

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Prelude "Sleepers Awake!!" J. S. Bach

Welcome/Announcements

+Greeting*

One: O Come, Emmanuel, come to us, for we are lonely for God.

Many: Come, bring the peace of God-with-us.

One: O Come, Wisdom from on high,

Many: Lead us in the ways of knowledge, and show us the paths of peace.

One: Glorious shoot from the Jesse tree,

Many: Come, and bring life, fresh and green and lovely, to our spirits.

+Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Verses 1-4 UMH 211

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
(8:45) Jim and Fran McConnell, Andrew and Emma

Song* M. and J. Biery
*Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is near! This candle now burns with a message so clear:
Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is near! God's kingdom is coming, God's kingdom is here!*

TO HEAR THE WORD

Old Testament Reading* Isaiah 40:1-11 **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Like a Child" Daniel Damon
Morning Glory Choir

New Testament Reading* James 5:1-8 **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Perfect Gift"

Musical Offering "Star-Child" FWS 2095
Molly Roberson, Solo
The congregation is invited to sing the refrain and verse 5

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Invitation

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

The Peace *You are invited to share signs of peace with one another.*

Offertory "Panis Angelicus" Cesar Frank

Linda Koertge, Bells; Laura Griggs, Flute

+Response* "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94

+Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving* UMH 17

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 the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Everyone who is present today is welcome at the Lord's Table.

The ushers will invite you to come forward

to receive a piece of bread and dip it lightly into the cup of juice.

Gluten-free wafers are also available as you come forward.

You are also welcome to pray at the altar.

Monetary gifts left at the rail go to emergency needs in our church and community.

AND SCATTERS TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

+Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH 206

+Benediction

+Postlude Improvisation on "Veni Emmanuel"

Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Red) FWS = The Faith We Sing (Black)

*Words Projected

+Please stand as you are able

Greeters: (8:45) Phyllis Ranger (11:00) Molly Roberson
 Communion Preparers: (8:45) Barbara Blankenship
 Acolytes: (8:45) Andrew Bowers (11:00) Molly Roberson
 Nursery: (8:45) Lori Justice (Sunday School) Anne McKinnish
 (11:00) Anne Blane and Brad Wootten
 Counters: Gary Wright, Captain
 Ushers: (8:45) Bill Blankenship, Chris Healy, Carolyn Bilski
 (11:00) David Sommer, Lee Bradshaw, Bob Fitch, Linwood Hudson,
 T. L. Jenkins, Stuart Watkins, George Winstead
 Readers: (8:45) Ron White (11:00) Barbie Vest, Bobby Johnson
 Audio/Visual Team: Russ Byers' Team
 Name Tag Organizer: Laurie Breeden
 Sanctuary Organizer: Bob Gillie

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and in recognition of our faithful, friendly greeters who have served this year, with love and thanks from Phyllis Ranger.

The **flowers on the left in the narthex** are presented to the glory of God by Sue Duganne. Happy Anniversary, Bill. I can't believe it has been 30 years! I love you, Sue.

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Custodial Services	
Nursery Worker	
Our Covenant Missionary	

Mary Beth Blinn
Beverley R. Edwards
Susan M. Clark
Isabelle Sullivan
Charlotte S. Cervarich
Kathleen M. Smith
Linda M. Collins
William J. Duganne
April Basham
Kim King Torres



Providence United Methodist Church

December 4, 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 4

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens Service
- 12:00 p.m. Turkey Dinner (Social Hall)
- 4:30 p.m. Pass It On Choir (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party (decorate youth house and bring a \$10 gift for gift exchange)
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (Room 309)
- 7:00 p.m. Bells of Providence

Monday, December 5

- 10:00 a.m. Line Dancing Class (Room 309)
- 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Women's Christmas Dinner (Social Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 4 (Room 206)

Tuesday, December 6

- 10:00 a.m. Quilters (Room 206)
- 11:00 a.m. Bible Study (Library)
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple 1 (Room 206)
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (Third Floor)
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Social Hall)

Wednesday, December 7

- 5:30 p.m. Community Wednesday Night Dinner (Social Hall)
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. One Starry Night (Third Floor)
- 6:00 p.m. KC Jam Rehearsal (Library) Note room change just for this week.
- 6:00 p.m. Providence Court Townhouse Association (Room 205)
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 8

- 10:00 a.m. Preschool Program (Social Hall)
- 10:30 a.m. Chrismon Class (Room 206)
- 6:00 p.m. Starlighters (Social Hall)

Friday, December 9

- 6:30 p.m. Gregory Circle Meeting (with Laura Griggs)
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 309)

Saturday, December 10

- 10:00 Christmas Eve Play Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 11

- 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Worship service
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Caroling
- 4:30 p.m. Pass It On Choir (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (Room 309)
- 7:00 p.m. Bells of Providence

Welcome, guests. We're glad you're here!

- Children's worship bags and age-appropriate worship activity bulletins are available in the foyer.
- Colorful bags at the back have helpful information.
- Restrooms are located on the main hall to the left.
- Name tags can be found on the clipboards in the pews.
- Assisted listening devices and large print hymnals are available. Ask an usher for assistance.
- A nursery is offered as an option for our children newborn through age four (located downstairs).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is invited to enjoy a **turkey luncheon** following 11 o'clock worship in the social hall. Thanks to the United Methodist Men who are preparing and serving the meal for us. Voluntary donations made will go toward various outreach projects

You may continue to offer your commitments to the **2012 ministries** of our church through our financial gifts. Commitment cards are available in the pew racks and may be placed in the offering.

Sign up for Community Wednesday Night Dinner today. Menu: Smothered chicken, rice, steamed broccoli, yeast rolls, and dessert. Our community is invited to join us for a free meal. Church members eat free if you bring a guest.

Mark your calendar for December 7 for **One Starry Night**, an indoor interactive walkthrough of Mary's journey to Bethlehem. The event is 6:00-8:00 p.m.; walkthroughs take about 30 minutes. Please extend the invitation to others in our community who may enjoy this event, especially families with children.

Our "**Longest Night**" service will be on Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel. It is named for the longest night of the year, December 20, after which the days grow longer and brighter. You are invited to come to a quiet place to reflect and be encouraged. The service will include scripture, music, and reflection designed to bring comfort and hope. If you or someone you know is feeling loss and sadness in the face of the celebrations of Christmas, this will be an important time for you. The service is open to the community.

We will be hosting **CARITAS** January 2-6 for single women who are homeless. Check out the poster on the foyer for ways you can involved: washing clothes, fixing lunches, spending the night, and providing other support. Call Brenda Woodward at 914-1259 for more information.

The small group that studied the book, Change the World, will be hosting the Wednesday Night Dinner on December 14. At that time, we will be collecting **donations of books and Bibles to be donated to a prison library**. The books and Bibles cannot be hard back. Also, there should be no identifying papers, marks, or numbers in the books or the Bibles. Contact Rob Heare (379-6586) with questions.

You are all invited to a floating Christmas party at the home of Michael and Beverley Edwards on **Friday, December 9 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** (1935 Norwood Creek Drive, Powhatan). Please come for refreshments and fellowship. Children are welcome.

Next Sunday is Food Sunday—donated staple foods are welcome!

The Christian Builders Sunday School Class is using the **Cokesbury Adult Bible Studies** (International Bible Lessons for Christian Teachings). In December, we will be looking at passages from Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Galatians. The themes are: God's Covenant, God's Protection, and God's Redemption. We have four teachers that rotate and would welcome anyone interested in Bible-based studies. We meet in Room 206 at 9:45 each Sunday. --Diane King (276-0469)

The Living Word Sunday School Class (Room 303) will be studying the book, **“The Journey-Walking the Road to Bethlehem”** during the season of Advent on Sundays at 9:45. Join us!

Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class began a study of *The Lord's Prayer* by R. T. Kendall on November 27. The class, led by Stuart Watkins, is primarily discussion. Please join us to learn more about the insights and inspiration from The Lord's Prayer. The class generally meets in the Social Hall at 9:45 a.m.

This year's Advent offering will benefit UMUMR (United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond). The mission of UMUMR is to facilitate collaborative partnerships. This year's Christmas Offering (special envelope in your packet, or designate your check) will be divided equally between the following: Branches of Florida City, Pathways, and Haiti's Children's Project. More details may be found in your December newsletter.

God's Creation 2012 calendars (4) are still available from the youth. The cost is \$6.00. Checks should be written to “Providence Youth.”

All children in 5th grade and below are invited to attend Jesus' birthday party on December 16 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in the Social Hall. We will enjoy yummy treats, create a craft, and watch a movie as we remember the real reason for the season. Please bring baby Jesus a gift of canned food to feed the hungry.

December Pockets are in. Please feel free to pick one up today in the narthex.

Upcoming Events:

December 18: (8:45 and 11:00) Chancel Choir and Friends sing “Come Ye Faithful,” a service of lessons and carols.

Christmas Eve: (5:00 p.m.) Family Service with Holy Communion
(11:00 p.m.) Candlelight and Holy Communion

Christmas Day: One service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School)

New Year's Day: One service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School)

PRAYER MINISTRY

Hospitalized: Janet Fattizzi (Johnston-Willis)

Church-wide Prayer Request: for the Worship Task Force and our congregation as we discern how God is leading us to offer two different worship experiences.

The prayer request forms are located on the clipboards and may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. In order to keep our GATHERED PRAYER CONCERNS list up-to-date, names will remain in the bulletin for four weeks. You may resubmit a request at any time.

Our gathered prayer concerns: Helen Bowman (Laurels of Bon Air), Mae Clarke, The Family of LaVearn Everett (following her death on November 12), **The Family of Callie Gregory**, The Family of Alma Groome, Beth Hastings (Ruby Agee's daughter), Sally Hunter (grandmother of Glenn Jones), **Mildred Isbell** (home from the hospital), Gilda Jordan, Ruby Milby, Catherine Milholen (home from the hospital), Jeannette Wilson and family (on the death of her brother, Roland Dean Newcomb), Clyde Randall, Dr. Barbara A. Ritch-Brant, A. M. Davis students, faculty, and staff

Our service men and women, wherever they serve, and their families.

Julia Berger	Kevin Judd	Megan Thomas Clark	Bobby Swanson
Nathan Berger	Kenneth Wagner	Brent Davis	Jennifer Collins
Hunter Blankenship	Wayne Lee	Brian Wilson	David Dias
Matt Latimer	Bob Muchow (home!)		

Providence Church has an email Prayer Ministry. Please call the Church Office at 276-4289 if you have an immediate need for yourself or a family member.

Metro Richmond Prayer for December 4, 2011: We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, families going through divorce; and for households that are communities of friends.

If you feel led to Christian baptism or would like to transfer your membership to Providence, please contact Pastor Mary Beth Blinn at 276-4289 or Marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net .

**Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2011 11:00 a.m.
The Hanging of the Greens**

Prelude "Sleepers Awake!!" J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

+Call To Worship*

How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God

We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

Thanks be to God.

+Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Verses 1-4 UMH 211

Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11 **Thanks be to God.**
Anthem "Comfort, Comfort" arr. John Ferguson
Chancel Choir
Laura Griggs, flute; Jane Gilliam, percussion

Introduction to Hanging of the Greens
A Prayer at the Altar

The Colors and Candles of Advent

The Advent Wreath

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Kelly, Charlotte and Georgia Horne

Song* M. and J. Biery
*Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is near! This candle now burns with a message so clear:
Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is near! God's kingdom is coming, God's kingdom is here!*

The Evergreens
Musical Offering "Christmas is Coming"
Pass It On Youth Choir

The Christmas Tree

The Chrismon Tree Betty Gregory

The Nativity Scene *The children are invited to come forward.*

The Bells of Christmas
Musical Offering "Panis Angelicus" Cesar Frank
Linda Koertge, bells; Laura Griggs, flute

The Gifts of Christmas
Musical Offering* "Star-Child" Mary Beth Blinn
Molly Roberson, Solo *The congregation is invited to sing the refrain and verse 5* FWS 2095

Offering Offertory on "Veni Emmanuel" Gerard Krapf
Response

+Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH 206
A Closing Prayer at the Altar
+Benediction and Blessing for Lunch
+Postlude Improvisation of "Veni Emmanuel"

Readers: Barbie Vest and Bobby Johnson
Praying Person: Laura Griggs

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