

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

ADVENT READING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP Phil Whyte, (based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

Leader: We come to worship Christ!

People: Who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the brokenhearted, frees the prisoner and comforts those who mourn.

Leader: We come to worship Christ!

People: Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Leader: We come to worship Christ!

People: Who rebuilds ancient ruins and restores broken places.

All: We come to worship Christ!

SONG OF PRAISE #31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hailed the incarnate Deity, Pleas'd in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain...

3. Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FOR CHILDREN John 1:23 (Easy to Read Version)

John told them the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert: 'Make a straight road ready for the Lord.'"

SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **19** This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." **21** And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." **22** Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. **24** Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. **25** They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" **26** John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, **27** the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." **28** This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

