

see God's hand at work. Lord, remind us that throughout history, You have chosen the underdog, the unassuming to show Your greatest power.

**All: Remind us that You can be found in the most unlikely of places.**

Leader: Remind us that Your miracles and blessings cannot be summoned by wealth, power, or presentation.

**All: We create room for You in our workplaces.**

Leader: Where tensions often run high, and people can be difficult.

**All: In times when we lack confidence in our calling,**

Leader: Remind us that you chose Mary, an unwed teen, to raise the Savior of the world.

**All: In times when our current situation seems to disqualify us from Your blessings,**

Leader: Remind us of Bethlehem, a tiny city with heavenly fame.

**All: In times when we feel "less-than,"**

Leader: Remind us that You are the Great I Am. When we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, we are in *partnership* with the Almighty. That You would use us to accomplish the divine is an honor almost more than we can comprehend, but we are grateful!

**All: Let us be Your hands and feet, bringing miracles of hope and deliverance to people in darkness. Amen.**

**CAROL-O Little Town of Bethlehem**

***Reading from Luke 2:8-18***

**CAROL-THE FIRST NOEL**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; to those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, a Light has dawned. Through this one Light, our night is broken! As children of God, we share this Light in a darkened world. May we not forget the impact of one light shining in the darkness. May we not forget the impact of one flame shared with another. How quickly the dark is dispelled by each of us *being* the Light and *sharing* the Light.

**CAROL-Silent Night, Holy Night**

Leader: Lord, as we exit this morning, we will see celebrations of You everywhere. When we see the Christmas lights blinking on the trees and on the houses, we will rejoice.

**All: For You are the Light!**

Leader: When we feast on our Christmas meal and all the confectioneries,

**All: For you are the Bread of Life.**

Leader: As we leave with these carols in our hearts and on our lips,

**All: We will sing with the angels.**

Leader: In the car, in our homes, during the mundane tasks of life, making each moment sacred. And so, we end today in the same way we began: Joy to the world! Our Lord has come!

**All: We receive You as our King!**

**CAROL-Joy to the World (reprise)**

**BENEDICTION**



*Providence Forge  
Presbyterian Church*

# December 25, 2022-Christmas Day

**PRELUDE** Melody Raef  
**WELCOME** Tom Ballou  
**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION** Melody Raef  
**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**

## **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE** *#29 Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

We come before God, not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us confess our sin.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** **PCUSA**

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

## **\*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Come to the light, for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**\*RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE** *#579 Gloria Patri*

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**The peace of Christ be with you ... And also with you.**

# **PROVIDENCE FORGE** **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>-January 1st, 2022**  
Shannon Richard 26<sup>th</sup>; Hayden VanDyke 30<sup>th</sup>

## **ASSISTANCE**

### **ELDER ON DUTY**

#### **ATTENDANT**

**Davis Gammon**

### **NURSERY**

**No Nursery Today**

## **CHURCH FINANCIAL**

### **November 2022**

<b>Budgeted Revenue \$11,946</b>	<b>Actual Revenue \$12,361</b>
<b>Actual Expense \$11,691</b>	<b>Monthly Net Income \$670</b>
	<b>YTD \$40,794</b>

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

December 18, 2022-Sanctuary 87; Zoom 7

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR, ADULT CHOIR, and WORSHIP CLASS WITH PASTOR CINDY** will not meet on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Happy New Year! See you on the 8<sup>th</sup>!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** will meet on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Faith and Fellowship for January will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Both are held after the worship services.

## **FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY**

Christopher Arkin, Evin Stovall, Jacob Allen, Criszon Courtney, John Goodell, Brandon Belcher, Robert Beary, John Tipton

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

The family of Roy Gephart; Gary Crow, brother-in-law of Donna Billcheck; The family of Valia Ackerman (great grandmother of Abigail Weaver); The family of Richard Matthews (Ellen Davis' brother); The family of Louis Bell; Janette Gammon; April Salvant (co-worker of Laurie Weaver); Mary Catherine Sheridan's friend, Monica, and her baby Lucas; Jim Watts; Todd Sitterson; Barbara Bell; Christopher Smith; Nicholas Brucker; Michael Minter; John Dixom



## Cantata

Leader: Joy to the world! Our Lord has come. He is here! He has accomplished the Gospel. He is a living testament that God keeps His promises. Lord, like the Holy Family on that first Christmas night, many of us enter into the Christmas season with mixed emotions. And like that first Christmas night, we celebrate in the midst of a complicated, ever-changing world. Because you are good, even through Your birth, You remind us that You are an unchangeable, faithful God. Because of this,

**All: We come today in gratitude.**

Leader: Knowing that as far as the curse is found, your Light shines. As far as the curse is found, Your blessings search us out and cover us.

**All: We come today in humility.**

Leader: Stripped of pride, accepting You as our eternal Gift, given by God the Father.

**All: We come rejoicing.**

Leader: As your adopted children! Your earthly adoption brought You into a world of heartache, poverty and death. Our heavenly adoption brings us kingdom riches and life.

**All: We come in faith.**

Leader: Knowing that in our own advent seasons of life, you are the Promise Keeper. You are the God who comes and stays and delivers. Because of this,

**All: You are our Hope!**

Leader: Our Hope for things to come,

**All: Our Hope for unresolved situations today.**

Leader: You are our Hope when we pray in Your name,

**All: In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**CAROL-Joy to the World**

***Reading from Luke 2:1-7***

Leader: Lord, it is beyond our comprehension that our Royal Prince, our Holy Messiah, would have no place to lay his head. While we shake our heads in disapproval, we must also ask ourselves where we have not made room for You. So, today, Lord,

**All: We invite You into our homes.**

Leader: The place where we are most vulnerable and real. We invite You to see us as we are, with no pretense of show; to see the best and worst of us.

**All: We create room for You in our workplaces.**

Leader: Where tensions often run high, and people can be difficult.

**All: We invite You into our conflicts.**

Leader: Drawing on Your divine compassion, understanding, and wisdom to resolve situations that wound us.

**All: We create room for You in our finances.**

Leader: So that You can guide us to people in need, precious souls beloved by You. And for those who struggle during the Christmas season,

**All: We invite You into our struggle**

Leader: Embracing You as our Prince of Peace, our Wonderful Counselor. May every heart prepare room for You in this season and throughout the year.

**All: Amen.**

**CAROL-Away in a Manger**

***Reading from Psalm 66:4-5***

Leader: To be invited to the very first Call to Worship, to be summoned to the stable where the curse was reversed, To have "A Request for the Honor of Your Presence" from the King of the Nations, How can we refuse?

**All: And so, we come.**

Leader: In answer to Your bidding.

**All: We come.**

Leader: With uplifted hearts and outstretched arms.

**All: We come.**

Leader: Joining our voices with the angels.

**All: We come.**

Leader: With joyful songs and happy greetings. "*All the earth bows down to You; they sing praise to You; they sing praise to Your name.*"

**All: Come and see the works of God; how awesome are His deeds toward mankind!"**

**CAROL-O Come All Ye Faithful**

***Reading from Matthew 11:28-29***

Leader: O come, all ye faithful.... joyful... triumphant! ... Words we've just sung as an invitation to meet the Savior. And yet, who can live up to that standard? These words which describe us on our best days- faithful, joyful, triumphant- also seem to disqualify us, as we all occasionally miss the mark. What about the unfaithful? The broken? The defeated? Can we *also* come to Bethlehem and meet the Savior?

Because if we're honest with ourselves, we have *all* been unfaithful. We have all strayed and turned our own way. The Good News of Christmas is that Christ was born specifically for the unfaithful. He came to gather the broken, the disillusioned, the weary and the utterly defeated to Himself for healing. He breaks the power of fear and sin, and He frees us, giving us His peace.

**All: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Leader: These are the tidings of comfort! These are the tidings of joy!

**CAROL-God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**

***Reading from Micah 5:2, 4-5a***

Leader: Because our culture pushes us to look for the extraordinary in exaggerated situations, we are prone to miss miracles that happen in unlikely places. We might be tempted to manufacture glamour in efforts to