



Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

to further God's kingdom on earth, one soul at a time

9310 Townsend Road | Providence Forge, VA 23140 | (804) 966-2079 | www.PFPC.org



Sunday, December 22, 2024

Advent Series: Words for the Beginning

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

#592 Doxology

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***SONG OF SENDING**

#387 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Melody Raef

Worship liturgy and prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC

PROVIDENCE FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Crystal Varner Parker
Administrative Assistant	Kristel Lamp
Organist & Choir Director	Melody Raef
Sunshine Nursery School Director	Cathy Davis
Church Treasurer	Paul Robinson

THE SESSION 2024

Ruth Hopke	Clerk of Session (2024)
Pete Adamson	Administration (2024-2026)
Jamie Gray	Administration (2022-2024)
Ayars Lore	Administration (2022-2024)
Nathan Richards	Administration (2023-2025)
Paul Davis	Christian Life (2023-2025)
Patricia Robinson	Christian Life (2024-2026)
Mary-Catherine Sheridan	Christian Life (2024-2026)
Davis Gammon	Community & Mission (2024-2026)
Jo White	Community & Mission (2022-2024)



HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK

*Deepest gratitude to our children and youth for leading us in worship today.
Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE Melody Raef

WELCOME Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this weary world,

People: we sing of joy.

Leader: In this fragile world,

People: we lift each other up.

Leader: In this beautiful world,

People: we look for God.

Leader: In this tender world,

People: we hold onto hope.

Leader: This is the invitation of faith. So in this time of worship,
may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

People: With hope in our hearts, amen!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Hayden, Trudy, Grady,
& Evie VanDyke

***SONG OF PRAISE** *The Candle of Hope* (lyrics on insert)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God says,

**People: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."**

Leader: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

People: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME FOR CHILDREN Christmas Pageant

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Matthew 1:18-25; Pew Bible p. 783

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:46-55; Pew Bible p. 832

SERMON "Hope Is Worth The Risk" Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope,
a God who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring,
who dwells with and among us.**

**We believe that this God has dreams for creation,
dreams of justice like a mighty stream
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.
Therefore, we push cynicism aside.**

We risk vulnerability.

**We hold onto hope,
and we declare:**

**"My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

SONG OF RESPONSE #44 O Little Town of Bethlehem

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY