
COVENANT RENEWAL WORSHIP



The Morning Service

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Lord's Day — December 21, 2003

Preparation For Worship: Malachi 3:1-5

*Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers



The Lord Calls Us Into His Presence

Silent Prayer & Preparation

Call to Worship: *Malachi 3:1-5*

Pastor Chris Smith

†Hymn "Come down, O Love divine"

(see insert)

†Salutation & Responsive Scriptures

†Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalms 118:24

O praise the Lord with me,

Let us exalt his Name together!

Psalms 34:3

The Lord Cleanses Us in Christ

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

God of grace, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen!

†Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness:

Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. I humbly confess my sins and ask for your mercy. I have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have I loved my neighbor as myself. I have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly before you, my God. Have mercy on me, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse me from our sin. Create

in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *Silent Prayer. Amen!*

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads and hear the good news . . . !

The Lord Consecrates Us By His Word

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, in heaven and on earth, who forever sing to the glory of your name . . .

†Hymn #315 "God himself is with us"

Trinity Hymnal

The Old Testament Reading: *Deuteronomy 21:18-23*

Pastor Chris Smith

The New Testament Reading: 2 *Peter 3:1-13*

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:1-19*

†The Nicene Creed

(see insert)

Sermon: **REFORMING OUR EXPECTATIONS**

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

XXX. EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

†Hymn #165 "Saviour of the nations, come"

Trinity Hymnal

The Lord Receives Our Gifts

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Let our gladness know no end"

(see insert)

†Prayer of Dedication & the Lord's Prayer

†The *Gloria Patri*

The Lord Communes With Us at His Table

†Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Bread and Wine

†Hymn "Let all mortal flesh keep silence"

(see insert)

Pastoral Benediction

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): *Luke 2:30-32*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastor: Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come; that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins, and saved by your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

The Lord Blesses Us and Sends Us Out

†Hymn: #228 "Who is this that comes from Edom?" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen, Postlude & Greet One Another!

Royal blue, the color for **ADVENT**, symbolizes for us the promised coming of our Lord & King Jesus Christ. The traditional initials **IHS** on the pulpit scarf are short for IHSOUS, the Greek name "Jesus." The **CROWN** should remind us that when the God-man Jesus Christ returns it will be manifest to all people that he has been crowned King of kings and Lord of lords.

WELCOME to Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. Please fill out the visitor's registration before the service begins. Join us again this evening at 5:45 P.M. for our special Advent service.

Service of Lessons & Carols

Please plan to attend our special Advent service tonight. It will be a festival of lessons and carols, which will include children, youth, and adult choirs, Scripture lessons read by our youth, and congregational singing as well. This service will be a special time of meditation and reflection upon the meaning of our Lord's birth—a much needed opportunity for Christians during this hectic holiday season. Come early (5:45 PM) to hear Christmas preludes played by our young musicians. Bring your cookies to share with the congregation during the fellowship time that will follow the service.