

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers Senior Pastor	314-842-9329 (O) 314-842-9309 (H)	John McGowan John Moore	636-273-3917 314-984-9869
Rev. Chris Smith (Assoc)	314-962-1974 (O)	Monte Shields	636-938-4779
Steve Anderson	314-849-8331	John Keane	636-938-3108
George Devlin	314-821-0360	Randy Stone (Clerk of Session)	636-798-2230

The Deacons

Jack Boeve	636-461-1398	Curtis McCracken	636-717-0637
David Bromlow	314-843-5536	Clay Phillips (Treasurer)	314-843-4025
Bryan Carter	636-938-4936	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bill Coller	314-968-9535	Allan Wamsley	636-257-3933
Steve Dernlan	314-352-3205	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Tom Hanley (Secretary)	314-965-2205	Tim Werkema	314-727-6589
Richard Hiers (Chairman)	314-543-3010	George Yoder	314-729-0540
Jeff Keane	636-938-1037		

Church Staff

Chris Smith Associate Pastor	314-962-1974 (Office) 314-962-1953 (Home)	Melanie Carter Church Secretary	636-938-4936
Paul Jaeggi, Sr. Asst. to the Pastor	314-843-7994 (Church) 314-631-4394 (Home)	April Phillips Financial Secretary	636-587-9757
Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523		

Pastoral Interns

Jonathan Barlow	314-429-6648	Bryan Walker	314-514-9647
Jamison Galt	314-432-8348	Tim Weston	314-205-2018
Daniel McKinney	314-752-3461	Steve Sterner	314-420-1229

Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon, RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Lian & Clara Tombing,	India
Daryl Madi, RUF Ministry (Wash. U.)	Marcus Toole,	Canada
Eric & Maggie Dye, Army Chaplain	Mort & Jenny Whitman,	Romania
Joel & Shelly Hampton, USAF Chaplain	Bob & Shirley Woodson,	Peru
Emad & Michelle Mikhail, Middle East	Bruce & Susan Young,	Japan
Blake & Cathy Purcell, Russia	Dan & Becky Young,	Mexico
John & Cathy Rug, Chile		

Children's Sunday School Program (Fall Semester)

Ages 2 & 3	Kathy Hoegemann	Grade 4	Bryan Walker
Ages 4 & 5	Allan & Pam Wamsley	Grades 5 & 6	Brad Wood
Kindergarten	Steve & Amy Sterner	Grades 7 & 8	Monte Shields
Grade 1	Anne Hiers	High School	Daniel & Stephanie McKinney
Grade 2	Leesa Coller		
Grade 3	Tim Weston		

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church



Christmas Sunday

December 26, 2004

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the black registration folder at the end of the pew and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Please join us downstairs for coffee after the service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages which meet after the service at 11:00 AM. The “visitor’s card” on the table in the foyer will help you find the meeting place for your child’s class. We’d love to have you return tonight at 6:00 PM for singing, prayer, Bible teaching, and fellowship in a more informal setting.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Pastor Meyers’s book *The Lord’s Service: The Grace of Covenant Renewal Worship* (Canon Press, 2003) is also available on our book table. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: www.prpc-stl.org

The **Lord’s Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord’s Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine. (The grape juice has a darker color than the wine.)

Jesus Christ - Conqueror (Front Cover)



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are **white**, as is this service’s cover sheet. This is the traditional color for **CHRISTMAS**. It symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, and purity.

The Lord’s Service at Home

Christmas Season 2004-5

Just as the great redemptive events recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures were keyed to the changes in the seasons—Passover in the Spring means life from the dead—so also the church has ordered her Scripture readings and prayers so that the life of Christ would be correlated to the symbolic changes evident in the seasons of the year. Easter, for example, is celebrated in the Spring when the entire created order is symbolically restored from death to life.

Consider how this works for Christmas. Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25th? Not because anyone really believed that Jesus was actually born on this date—although the early church had good reasons to suspect a winter birth. Nor is it the case, as some maliciously teach, that the church gullibly adopted a pagan Roman holiday, the festival of the Invincible Sun (*Dies Natalis Dei Solis Invicti*). The early church was not so naïve. The date was picked for symbolic reasons.

The winter solstice occurs around December 25th (solstice from the Latin: *sol* = sun, and *sistere* = to stand still). This is the time of the year when the Sun reaches its southern-most extremity (or to put it another way, it is the point on the Sun’s ecliptic at which it is the farthest south). The longest night and the shortest day occur at this point, and from this day onward the days get longer and the nights get shorter. The darkness of winter begins to give way to the light and warmth of Spring and Summer. This continues until the summer solstice when the other extreme is reached.

What does this have to do with Christmas? Much in every way. Just as death and darkness give way to life and light in the yearly cycle of seasons, so also the death and darkness brought on by sin gives way to the life and light realized in the work of Jesus. Jesus birth is celebrated when the darkness of night has reached its peak, and once he is born the light begins to wax and the darkness wanes. As the traditional German hymn (#153) reminds us:

Behold a branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse’s race
And bears one little Flower
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

Christmas Scripture Readings – This Week

Monday, Dec. 27	– 1 Sam. 1:1-12	Psalm 13	Luke 1:1-24	1 John 1:1-4
Tuesday, Dec. 28	– 1 Sam. 1:13-20	Psalm 14	Luke 1:26-38	1 John 1:5-10
Wednesday, Dec. 29	– 1 Sam. 1:21-28	Psalm 15	Luke 1:39-45	1 John 2:1-6
Thursday, Dec. 30	– 1 Sam. 2:1-11	Psalm 16	Luke 1:46-56	1 John 2:7-11
Friday, Dec. 31	– 1 Sam. 2:12-17	Psalm 17	Luke 2:57-66	1 John 2:12-17
Saturday, Jan. 1	– 1 Sam. 2:18-26	Psalm 18	Luke 2:67-80	1 John 2:18-27

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

The Sacrifice of Peace

†Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

The Words of Institution

Communion Hymn #165 "Savior of the nations, come" *Trinity Hymnal*

†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!**

Pastoral Prayer: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #159 "Good Christian men, rejoice" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction: *Numbers* 6:24-26

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

The Evening Service

Our Evening Sacrifice of Prayer and Praise

December 26, 2004 — 6:00 PM

Scripture Meditation - Psalm 99

Scripture Reading: *Numbers* 6:1-21

†Psalm 99 "God, the LORD, is King" *Anglo-Genevan Psalter*

Psalms and Hymns

Prayer Requests and Prayer

Hymn #169 "Who is this so weak and helpless" *Trinity Hymnal*

Scripture Reading

Missionary Report & Sermon Rev. Bill Conley

†Hymn #152 "O little town of Bethlehem" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — December 26, 2004

Christmas Sunday

Preparation For Worship: Psalm 148

Organ - Mrs. Joanie Harris

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Psalm* 148:1-2

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn #164 "Angels, from the realms of glory" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

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

Congregation: **Amen!** *Matthew* 28:19

The Lord be with you! *Ruth* 2:4

And also with you!

Unto us a Child is born; *Isaiah* 9:6

Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called,
**Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!**

†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!

Purification

†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 humble confess my sins and ask your mercy. I have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have I loved my neighbor as myself. I have not been just in dealing with others. I have not loved kindness or walked humbly before you, my God. Have mercy on me, O God, because of your lovingkindness. In your great compassion,

cleanse me from my 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 your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *Silent prayer.* Amen!

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

Ascension

†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.

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†Hymn #149 "Joy to the World!"

Trinity Hymnal

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 61:10-62:5*

Rev. Mark Horne

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *2 Corinthians 9:1-15*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *John 1:1-18*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God

the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God, begotten, not made;

being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made:

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father.

**And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Lord, and Giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

And I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Sermon: **THIS IS WHO I AM!**

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

†Hymn of Response: #166 "From heaven on high"

Trinity Hymnal

†We Recite God's Holy Standard for Living

Matthew 5:2-12

Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you

And utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven,

For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

†Prayer of Dedication & The *Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost