



PROVIDENCE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GROWING A FAMILY
TO REACH A COMMUNITY

a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

December 22, 2024

The 4th Sunday in Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP

Micah 5:1-5

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand & shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

What Child is This

Hymn #213

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymn #295

Opening Prayer

CONFESSING OUR SINS TOGETHER

1 Timothy 6:6-12

Almighty God and Father, we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned, in thought, word, and deed, in what we have done & in what we have left undone. We are so easily distracted from Your way. We choose to follow our own purposes in our lives. We look for joy & contentment in what we can get from the world rather than how we can give our lives to You for Your purposes.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive us our sins. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, raise us up to serve You in newness of life, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

REJOICING IN OUR FORGIVENESS

Romans 5:8-11

... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

His Forever

Song

Revelation Song

Song

Praying for Our Church

Rev. Jonathan Kuciemba

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Worthy is the Lamb (Thank You for the Cross)

Song

HEARING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

The Gospel According to Galatians

Galatians 2. 1-10

Preserving the Gospel

Rev. Mark Fodale

Your Words Are Wonderful

Song

Benediction

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 1. 15- 2. 10 (English Standard Version)

... when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia & returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

2.1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ² I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. ³ But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴ Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— ⁵ to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶ And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

The Gospel According to Galatians
Galatians 2. 1-10
Preserving the Gospel

*A person is **not** justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. We also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ & **not** by works of the law, because by works of the law **no one** will be justified.*

Galatians 2.16

I. Pursuing Gospel Partnership (vs. 1-2)

II. Fighting Gospel Challenges (vs. 3-5)

*But some men came down from Judea & were teaching the brothers,
“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses,
you cannot be saved.”*

Acts 15.1

III. Advancing Gospel Mission (vs. 6-10)

As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. NIV

IV. Continuing Gospel Faithfulness

- _____ it often
- _____ the next generation in it
- Have _____ who are devoted to it
- Form _____ around it
- Go out & _____ it

SERMON QUOTES AND REFERENCES:

One of the ways in which the false teachers of Paul's day tried to undermine his authority was to hint that his gospel was different from Peter's, and indeed from the views of all the other apostles in Jerusalem. 'As a result', they said, 'the church is being saddled with two gospels, Paul's & Peter's, each claiming a divine origin. Which are we going to accept?' 'Surely', they went on, 'we cannot follow Paul if he is in a minority of one, and if Peter & the rest of the apostles disagree with him?' This was one of the more popular arguments of the Judaizers. They were trying to disrupt the unity of the apostolic circle. They were openly alleging that the apostles contradicted one another. Their game, we might say, was not 'robbing Peter to pay Paul', but 'exalting Peter to spite Paul'!

To this charge Paul now addresses himself. He has shown in ch. 1 that his gospel came from God not man. He now shows in ch. 2 that his gospel was precisely the same as that of the other apostles; it was not different. To prove that his gospel was independent of the other apostles, he has stressed that he paid only one visit to Jerusalem in 14 years, and that this lasted only 15 days. To prove that his gospel was identical to theirs, he now stresses that when he paid a proper visit to Jerusalem, his gospel was endorsed & approved by them.

John Stott, Galatians

Assumed Evangelicalism believes in the gospel. It certainly does not deny it. But in terms of priorities, focus, and direction, Assumed Evangelicalism begins to gradually give increasing energy to concerns other than the gospel, to gradually elevate secondary issues to a primary level, to be increasingly worried about how it is perceived by others, and to allow itself to be increasingly influenced both in content & method by the prevailing culture of the day.

David Gibson, "Assumed Evangelicalism"

PROVIDENCE ACTIVITIES

December 22, 2024

Task Schedule	This Week	Next Week
Greeting Upper-Level.....	(8:15) J. Thompson/M. Weber	(8:15) Moyer
.....	(11:00) Jarratt	(11:00) Hetrick
Greeting Lower-Level.....	(8:15) Musselman	(8:15) Kusiak
.....	(11:00) Dietrich/Godshall	(11:00) Kriebel
Coffee Fellowship Host	Landis/Fryauff	Claire & James Fischer/Stiner/Jarratt
Nursery.....	(8:15) Godshall/Bergey	(8:15) C. Lacock/K. Morris
.....	(11:00) Croll	(11:00) G. Dimmick/A. Manyok
Nursery Helper	(8:15) A. Nix	(8:15) S. Snyder
.....	(11:00) M. Jackson	(11:00) T. Henderson
Sound Booth.....	Paul K. (B)/Nick B. (L)	Nick H. (B) / J. Hetrick (L)
Deacon of the Month.....	Gary Stever	Gary Stever

This Week:

Sunday..... Christmas Ornament Exchange, 10:40 a.m., lower foyer by the tree
..... Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary
Monday Nowicki’s HFG 6:30 p.m. at Jackie Thompson’s House, QT
Tuesday Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday. *Merry Christmas!*
Saturday Stitches of Love, 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall.

Announcements:

Cash Love gifts. This is the last week we are collecting for our pastors and other staff. The cash gifts can be given to Bill Miles or Gary Stever. Please take note, no checks, cash only please. Thank you!

For the month of December we are collecting **\$10.00 donations** to purchase gift cards to WAWA and Giant to help the clients of **Crossroads Pregnancy Care**. Donations can be given to Sue Wilsey or placed in a marked envelope for Crossroads gift card donation, and placed in the collection plate.

January 1st Hobolds invite you to the Provi **Polar Bear Plunge and Pancakes**, 12:00 Noon, at their home. Please see Eric or Mary Lou with any questions.

CAT25 preparation: If you’d like to get ready for our study in the New City Catechism, you may see Eric or Mary Lou for a \$5 booklet, download a mobile app or read some more info on the NCC website – check your enews for the links. If you are not on the church email list please see Diane Henderson and we will get you connected. It will also be posted on our website and social media sites.

Bible Study Training Workshop Old Testament Prophets. Saturday, February 15, 9 a.m. to noon. Let’s spend the morning together learning how to study and facilitate a study on the O.T. Book of Amos. This study is for anyone interested in developing Bible Study Skills. Please bring a breakfast food to share. See Shannon Fodale with any questions.