PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GROWING A FAMILY
TO REACH A COMMUNITY

---

a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Lord's Day Worship

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday in Advent

Call to Worship

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hymn #194

Come, Christians Join to Sing Hymn #302

Opening Prayer

Confessing Our Sins Together

Jeremiah 2:1-3, 12-13

O Lord, we have sinned & we need Your forgiveness. Our desires and our affections are bent, broken, and misplaced. We hunger for that which will never satisfy, and we love that which leads us away from You.

Forgive us, Lord, for we are sorry. Root our hearts and our affections once again in Christ, that we may glorify You and enjoy You forever. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness

Acts 4:8-12

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a

crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Cornerstone Song

I Will Glory in My Redeemer Song

Prayers for the World & the Persecuted Church *Rev. Jonathan Kuciemba*

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Speak, O Lord Song

Hearing God's Word Together

The Gospel According to Galatians
Galatians 1. 6-10
Distortions, Counterfeits & Fakes
Rev. Mark Fodale

This I Believe Song

Benediction Ephesians 3:17-19

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Scripture Reading

Galatians 1. 1-10 (English Standard Version)

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— [2] and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, [4] who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, [5] to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

[6] I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— [7] not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. [8] But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. [9] As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

[10] For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

The Gospel According to Galatians
Galatians 1. 6-10
Distortions, Counterfeits & Fakes

I. Delivered (v4)

"… to deliver us from the present evil age …"

II. Astonished (vs. 6-7)

What do we learn about imitation gospels?

1. Spiritual _____
2. Rejection of _____
3. _____ God's people
4. _____ real thing

III. Accursed (vs. 8-9)

- Sometimes false gospels come from trusted sources; therefore we must trust the message more than the messenger

IV. Approved (v10)

"… seeking the approval of man, or of God?"

Sermon Quotes and references:

During a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world debated what belief, if any, was unique to the Christian faith. They began eliminating possibilities. Incarnation? Other religions had different versions of gods appearing in human form. Resurrection? Again, other religions had accounts of return from death. The debate went on for some time until C. S. Lewis wandered into the room. "What's all the rumpus about?" he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity's unique contribution among world religions. Lewis responded, "Oh, that's easy. It's grace. Pure, simple, and undiluted grace."

The Life & Times of CS Lewis

The Reformation was a time when men went blind, staggering drunk because they had discovered, in the dusty basement of late medievalism, a whole cellar full of fifteen-hundred-year-old, two-hundred proof Grace – bottle after bottle of pure Scripture, one sip of which would convince anyone that God saves us single-handedly. The word of the Gospel – after all those centuries of trying to lift yourself into heaven by worrying about the perfection of your bootstraps – suddenly turned out to be the announcement that the saved were home before they started … Grace has to be drunk straight: no water, no ice, and certainly no ginger ale; neither goodness, nor badness, not the flowers that bloom in the spring of super spirituality could be allowed to enter into the case.

Robert Farrar Capon, The Wonderful Outrage of Grace

Providence Activities

December 8, 2024

Task Schedule	**This Week**	**Next Week**
Greeting Upper-Level	(8:15) J. Thompson/Weber	(8:15) Landis
	(11:00 J. Thompson/Ribeiro	(11:00) Spies
Greeting Lower-Level	(8:15) Bergey/Hand	(8:15) Penn/Martin
	(11:00) Hobold	(11:00) Klase
Coffee Fellowship Host	J & M Herring	Kuciemba/Kusiak
Nursery	(8:15) K. Phillips/K. Morris	(8:15) Patti F./K. McDonnell
	(11:00) Croll	(11:00) Croll/T. Jarratt
Nursery Helper	(8:15) A. Wesner	(8:15) A. Lacock
	(11:00) J. Fryauff	(11:00) Abby Kuciemba
Sound Booth	Isaac Snyder (B)/TBD. (L)	Darrin K (B)/ Josh H. (L)
Deacon of the Month	Gary Stever	Gary Stever

This Week:

Sunday..... Continental Breakfast, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall*
..... Christmas Choir Rehearsal. 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary
Monday..... Nowicki's HFG, 6:30 p.m. at Jackie Thompson's Home, QT
Tuesday..... Ladies *Joshua* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. at church
..... Senior Sister's Field Trip to Glick's Greenhouse, 11:00 a.m.
..... Fryauff's HFG, 6:30 p.m. at their home in East Greenville
Wednesday. ..... Ladies Christmas Party, 6:30 pm, in the Sanctuary.
Thursday..... Ladies Evening *Joshua* Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. at church
..... Men's 1 Thessalonians Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. at church
Saturday ..... Stitches of Love, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Announcements:

Cash Love gifts are being collected for our pastors and other staff as the Elders desire to honor their wonderful commitment to serve the Body and Christ. The cash gifts can be given to Bill Miles or Gary Stever any time until **December 22nd.** Please take note, no checks, cash only please. Thank you!

This Wednesday is the ***Ladies Christmas Party*** for women and girls of all ages! Please join us for cookies, cocoa and crafts! Bring 2 doz. of your favorite cookie to share. If you don't like to bake, come have cocoa and chat! We will have a variety of ornament crafts for you to make! Supplies provided. Feel free to invite others to come. If you have any questions, please see Natalia Lindner or Nellie Musselman.

Senior Sister's Field Trip to Glick's Greenhouse is this Tuesday, December 10th. We will go after the Tuesday morning Bible study to see their wonderful poinsettia display. Meet at Sue Ribeiro's home if you'd like to carpool. Please let Sue know if you will be attending.