

# PROVIDENCE CHURCH



SUNDAY GATHERING  
DECEMBER 15, 2024

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**CALL TO WORSHIP | Third Advent Candle Lighting**

*Isaiah 35:1-6*

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**SONG | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou King of nations, bring an end to all our suffering  
Bid every pain and sorrow cease, and reign now as our Prince of Peace  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

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**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Almighty God, you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us! But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to depend on your grace, and to live grateful and joyful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

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**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Zephaniah 3:14-17*

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**SONG | How Great Thou Art** ◀

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

And when I think, that God, his Son not sparing  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee  
How great thou art, how great thou art

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
To reign on earth, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

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**SONG | Angels We Have Heard on High** ◀

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King

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**PROFESSION OF FAITH** | Adapted from St. Patrick's Confession 

We proclaim that Jesus Christ is God's Son, who has been with God always, from the beginning of time and before the creation of the world. Through him everything in the universe was created, both what we can see and what is invisible. In the fullness of time, he was born as a human being and he conquered death, rising into the heavens to be with God. And God gave him power greater than any creature of the heavens or earth or under the earth, so that someday everyone will declare that Jesus Christ is Lord and God. We place our faith in him and we wait for him to return very soon.

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**ADVENT TESTIMONY** 

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**READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD** 

*Matthew 1:18-25 (pg 757 in pew Bibles)*

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**COMMUNION** 

*The communion meal is a sign and seal of a believer's union with Christ. We invite all who have trusted in Christ and been baptized to partake in this meal. If you are still investigating Christianity or not sure what you believe, we invite you to observe during this time and further consider what these things mean.*

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**SONG | What Child Is This** ◀

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping

This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh  
Come peasant, king to own him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone him

Raise, raise this song on high  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born  
The babe, the Son of Mary

Nails, spear shall pierce him through  
The cross he bore for me, for you  
Hail, hail the word made flesh  
The babe, the son of Mary

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**SONG | The First Noel** ◀

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

So let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
Who came to seek and save the lost  
And with his blood mankind he bought

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**SONG | Joy to the World** ◀

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns, let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as, the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love

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**BENEDICTION** ▶

## GOSPEL COMMUNITIES



Gospel Communities (GCs) are the primary context in our church for discipleship, community, and missional life. They are smaller groups of people within Providence who are seeking to extend grace, speak truth, deal with conflict, meet needs, and invite others in. Groups meet throughout the week and across the city.

Scan the QR code to see a full list of GCs or email [gc@providenceaustin.com](mailto:gc@providenceaustin.com).

## PROVIDENCE RECOVERY



Providence Recovery is a Christ-centered, twelve-step program designed to help people point each other to Jesus for healing. We do this by providing fellowship and accountability in applying Christian principles and practices to every area of life. Our weekly meetings are on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the Activity Center (first floor of the building).

Scan the QR code to read more or email [recovery@providenceaustin.com](mailto:recovery@providenceaustin.com).

## COLLEGE STUDENTS



We love college students, and we would love to help you get connected to our church. Let's get coffee or meet up on campus. We have monthly social events where you can meet new people and weekly small groups to help you grow in your faith.

Scan the QR code to see the upcoming college schedule or reach out to our college director, Alex Moser ([alex@providenceaustin.com](mailto:alex@providenceaustin.com) / 214-707-7356).

## PROVIDENCE YOUTH



**Middle School students (6th-8th)** meet after church three times a month for lunch, Bible study, and games.

**High School students (9th-12th)** meet in small groups twice a month, and a large group gathering once a month.

Scan the QR code to see the upcoming youth schedule or reach out to our youth director, Stephen Smith ([stephen@providenceaustin.com](mailto:stephen@providenceaustin.com)).

**END OF YEAR GIVING | DEADLINE DEC 31**

Make sure to get your year-end gifts postmarked by December 31st to be considered a 2024 contribution. You can give year-end gifts in several ways, which you can see detailed below. Giving statements will be sent out in mid-January as normal.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | DEC 24 • 5PM**

We will have a Christmas Eve service at 5pm this year. It will be a slightly shorter service than our normal Sunday gathering, and childcare will not be provided. Invite your extended family and friends to join us!

**BAPTISM CELEBRATION | JAN 12 • AFTER GATHERED WORSHIP**

Our next baptism celebration will be held on January 12th. If you would like to learn more about baptism, please email [baptism@providenceaustin.com](mailto:baptism@providenceaustin.com).

**GIVING**

We desire that generous giving would be both an act of worship and display of the grace we receive through Christ. There are several ways to give financially to the mission of God through Providence Church:

- 1 You can place your cash and/or check donations in one of the two offering boxes located at the front of the sanctuary.
- 2 You can setup automatic withdraw from your bank account. Go to [www.providenceaustin.com/give](http://www.providenceaustin.com/give) for more info on giving online.
- 3 You can donate stock: Email [donations@providenceaustin.com](mailto:donations@providenceaustin.com).

info@providenceaustin.com  
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