

ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bible House, Level 4, Seminar Room 1

Church Office & Library: 7 Armenian Street, Bible House, #03-03, S179932

Website: www.providencerpc.org

Email: providencecontacts@gmail.com



*A household for our triune God,
where each member shines forth His holy, life-giving presence.*

**THE LORD'S DAY OF DECEMBER 23,
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2018
9.15 AM**

“But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”
(Habakkuk 2:20)

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

Welcome

Preparatory Devotional & Prayer

Asterisks (*) denote portions for congregation to stand.
Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV).
Congregational readings are in **bold**.

GOD SUMMONS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

The Greeting of God

The Call to Worship: *Psalm 98:1-3*

¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S SUMMONS

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 731, "Doxology"*

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 218, "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

GOD DECLARES HIS LAW

Reading of the Law: *Exodus 20:7*

⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LAW

Silent Prayer of Confession

Confession of Sin (Unison):

Almighty God, our great King and Father,
you call us to sanctify your name with our entire lives.
But we have taken your name in vain.
We have held your Word lightly,

spoken it carelessly,
and received it with little intention to obey.
We have broken our promises to you,
misused your good gifts to us,
and misrepresented you before the world by not loving our neighbors.
Lord, sanctify your name through us,
in all that we do and say.
Forgive our sins through Christ Jesus
who died for sinners (Rom 5:6)
and fulfilled all righteousness (Mt 3:15).
Amen.

GOD DECLARES HIS GOSPEL

Reading of the Gospel: *2 Corinthians 5:14-15*

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Confession of the Gospel (Unison): *Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism*

I believe that Jesus Christ is truly God, born of the Father in eternity and also truly man, born of the Virgin Mary. He is my Lord! He redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, bought and won me from all sins, death and the authority of the Devil. It did not cost Him gold or silver, but His holy, precious blood, His innocent body—His death! Because of this, I am His very own, will live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him righteously, innocently and blessedly forever, just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns forever.

Assurance of Pardon: *Hebrews 5:7-9*

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: *Trinity Hymnal 196, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

GOD TEACHES US HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God:

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had

been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Prayer for Understanding

Preaching of the Word of God:

“Christmas: The Significant Birth”—Elder Clifford Chua

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Response: *Trinity Hymnal* 226, “*As with Gladness Men of Old*”

A Prayer of Response

Thanksgiving

Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church
The Republic of Singapore
The Holy Church of Jesus Christ

The Lord's Prayer (Unison): *Matthew 6:9-13*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*The Confession of Faith (Unison): *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic⁺ Church; *+universal*
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

*Hymn of Consecration: *Trinity Hymnal 198, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

GOD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSINGS

*Benediction