

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

I behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherds song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

“Bethlehem today resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in the place of the sun, enfolds within it on every side, the Sun of Justice. Ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed, He had the power, He descended, He redeemed; all things move in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His.

John Chrysostom, Christmas Sermon

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*Providence is a member of the Confederation of  
Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC),  
Athanasius Presbytery.  
[www.crechurches.org](http://www.crechurches.org)*

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



  
**PROVIDENCE  
CHURCH**  
A Reformed Evangelical Congregation

*December 24, 2009 • 6:00 P.M.*

## ***Welcome!***

We extend a warm welcome to our guests this evening. We are glad you are joining in worship with Providence Church this Christmas Eve, and we pray that your soul will be refreshed and fed by the Word of Christ. Please join us after the service for cider, coffee and conversation in back.

If you are without a Church home and would like to visit with Providence Church please know that you are welcome any Sunday at 9:30 for Covenant Renewal Worship. We also have a Bible Study time following the worship service. The Saints of Providence are eager to talk to you and get to know you better. Please feel free to seek any of us out to find out more about our Church.

## ***The Basics of Family Worship***

Parents are responsible to teach the Word of God to their children and make sure they understand what they hear from the pulpit on the Lord's Day (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Set aside a brief time each day to sit down as a family and worship the Lord together. You can do the following three things in 15 minutes or less, but the benefits you reap will be eternal.

1. Sing a hymn or a worship song. Next week's hymns for the worship service are printed in the bulletin.
2. Read a Scripture passage and discuss its meaning and application.
3. Pray together. Take your petitions to the Lord and pray for one another.

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*December 24, 2009 • 6:00 PM*

Prelude

Rev. James Jordan

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 100

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

**People: Amen!**

***Matthew 28:19***

\*The Lord be with you!

***Ruth 2:4***

**And also with you!**

\*The people who walked in darkness,

***Isaiah 9:2***

**Have seen a great light!**

\*Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

**On them a light has shined!**

Confession of sin and Lord's Prayer.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Pastor: God says, "Comfort, yes, comfort my people! Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned." Your heavenly Father sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem you from the curse of sin. Receive his promise of forgiveness by faith and rejoice in the assurance of God's favor.

\*Congregational Hymn

#226 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Pastor: Jesus Christ, in the fullness of time, took on flesh to seek and save those who were lost. We are the forgiven people of God and we worship the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Let all the Earth praise Him.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

## The First Lesson

*God gives the first promise of the gospel: the woman's Seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Genesis 3:8-19

Pastor Alan Stout

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Hymn

#30, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## The Second Lesson

*God promises Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed.*

Genesis 22:15-18

Ken Trotter

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

#225 *Savior Of The Nations Come*

## The Third Lesson

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

Isaiah 40:1-5

Winford Wilson

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

#219 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## The Fourth Lesson

*The prophet foretells the reign of the Savior.*

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Ed Noland

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Congregational Carol

#240 *Joy to the World!*

## The Fifth Lesson

*The angel Gabriel greets the virgin Mary.*

\*Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Uri Brito

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Meditation

Congregational Carol

#246 *Of The Father's Love Begotten*

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

## The Sixth Lesson

*Luke records the birth of our Lord Jesus, the Christ.*

Luke 2:1-7

Rob Noland

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

#230 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

## The Seventh Lesson

*The angels announce the birth of the Savior and the shepherds go to the manger.*

Luke 2:8-20

Kaleb Trotter

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

# 242 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

## The Eighth Lesson

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

Matthew 2:1-11

Pastor Alan Stout

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Meditation

Congregational Carol

#237 *Good Christian Men Rejoice*

## The Ninth Lesson

*St. Paul exults in the glory of the humiliation and exaltation of Christ.*

Philippians 2:5-11

Pastor Uri Brito

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Congregational Hymn

#236 *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*

\*Prayer for Grace

Pastor Alan Stout

\*Benediction

May He who by His incarnation gathered into one - things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

\* Three-Fold AMEN

*\*The congregation will please stand.*