



Providence Church

A Reformed Evangelical Congregation

THE LORD'S SERVICE

December 29th, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

*In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we at Providence Church open wide our doors and welcome all who are spiritually weak and seek rest; all who mourn and long for comfort; all who struggle and desire victory; all who sin and need the Savior; all who are strangers and want fellowship; all who hunger and thirst for righteousness; all who are poor in spirit and desire the riches of the gospel; all who will come to Jesus Christ in living faith and repentance, looking to Him as both Liberator and Lord. **

Providence
Church

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH (C.M.)
Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
He comes to make His bless - ings flow
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



heav'n and na - ture sing,

**GOD IS RENEWING HIS COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE
GOD CALLS US AND CLEANSSES US**

Prelude
Pianist
Exhortation

*Elder Ed Gregg
Jonathan Franzone
Repeat the Sounding Joy*

Processional Hymn (Please Stand):

Joy to the World

Call to Worship

*Pastor: Let us worship God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 18:20; 28:19

People: Amen!

Salutation: The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

People: And also with you!

Pastor: I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

Psalms 122:1-2

People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord!

People: Maker of Heaven and Earth!

Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of heavenly grace.

Pastor: Come, let us worship and bow down!

People: And kneel before the Lord our Maker. *(Let all who are able kneel)*

Psalm 95:6

Pastor: Most merciful God,

All: In whom we live and move and have our being, our heavenly Father, your face is hidden from us because of our sins. Cleanse us, we pray, from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. Grant that we may, in lowliness and meekness, draw near to you. Confessing our faults and confiding in your grace, we look for your grace and mercy through Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(Continue Kneeling for Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

(Rise and Hear the Good News of God's Forgiveness)

Pastor: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. On this day know surely your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 13:38

All: Thanks be to God. Our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. Amen!

Hymn of Faith

People: Amen

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. God of God, Light of Light;
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

5
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be -
Lo, He ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; Ver - y
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of Heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to the
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

10
hold Him born the King of an - gels:
God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed: O come, let us a - dore Him, O
God in the high - est:
Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

15
come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

GOD CONSECRATES AND RAISES US UP TO HEAVEN

Pastor: *Lift up your hearts!*

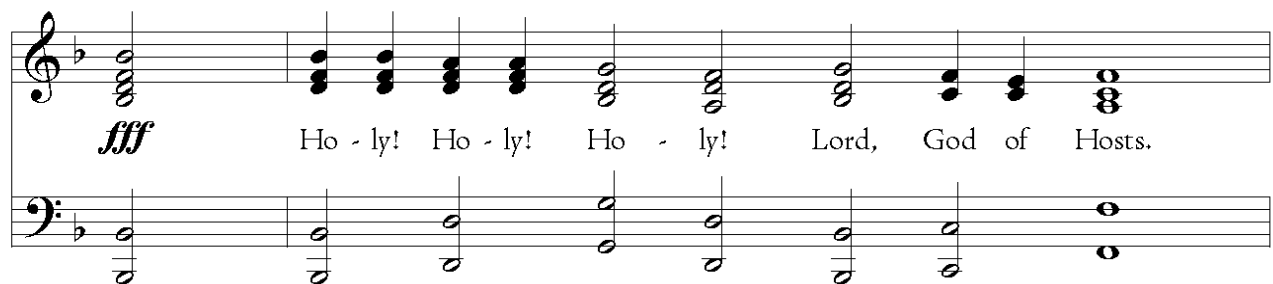
People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Pastor: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!*

People: **It is proper and right to do so.**

SANCTUS

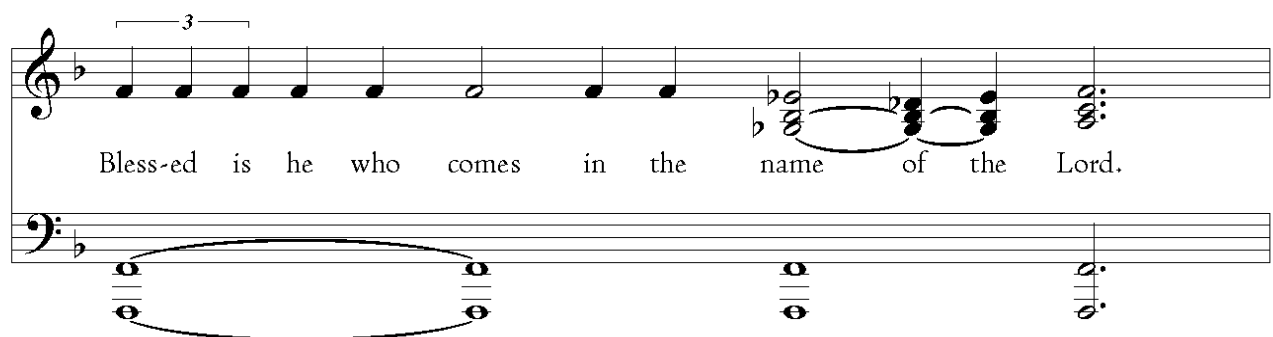
Pastor: *Truly it is fitting, right, wholesome and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, with all the company of heaven, and with all the Church on earth, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:*




fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts.



Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo-ry! Ho-san-na in the High - est!



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the High - - - est!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 87

Pastor: A Psalm. A Song By the Sons of Korah.

His foundation is in the holy mountains! Yahweh loves Zion's gates more than all of Jacob's dwellings.

Glorious things are said in you, city of God. Selah.

I will remember Rahab and Babylon among those acknowledging me;

Behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush: "This one was born there."

And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her,"

And he himself—the Most High—will establish her.

Yahweh will record as he registers the peoples:

"This one was born there." Selah.

And the singers as they dance:

"All my springs are in you."

Amen!

Yes! Amen!

CONFESSION OF THE NICENE CREED

(Please Remain Standing)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SUNG LORD'S PRAYER

Please respond at the end of each section:

Pastor: Father, hear our prayer!

People: For Your steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal-low-ed be Thy name, Thy king - dom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread,

and for - give us our debts, as we for - give our debt - ors,

and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry for - ev - er. A - men!

READING OF GOD'S WORD

(Please Stand)

Old Covenant Reading

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Covenant Reading:

Romans 12:1-8

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Amidst the People:

John 17:1-19

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of Faith:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

People: Amen

SERMON

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Uri Brito

Title: ***The Christmas Gift of Materiality*** (Outline on last page)

Text: *Selected Passages*

OFFERTORY **

(Ex. 23:15; 34:20; Dt. 16:16)

Pastor: Let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

Hymn of Response:

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

People: Amen

*** In the Old Testament the last part of the consecration was the Tribute Offering. It represented all the work that had been done by the person making that sacrifice. Our Offertory, the tithes and offerings, corresponds to this Tribute Offering. This is an act of corporate worship, thanking God for our ability to work and confessing that all your labors are for him and for his kingdom. The Tithe Box is at the back of the Church.*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN (7 6. 7 6. 6 7 6)

German melody, 15th century

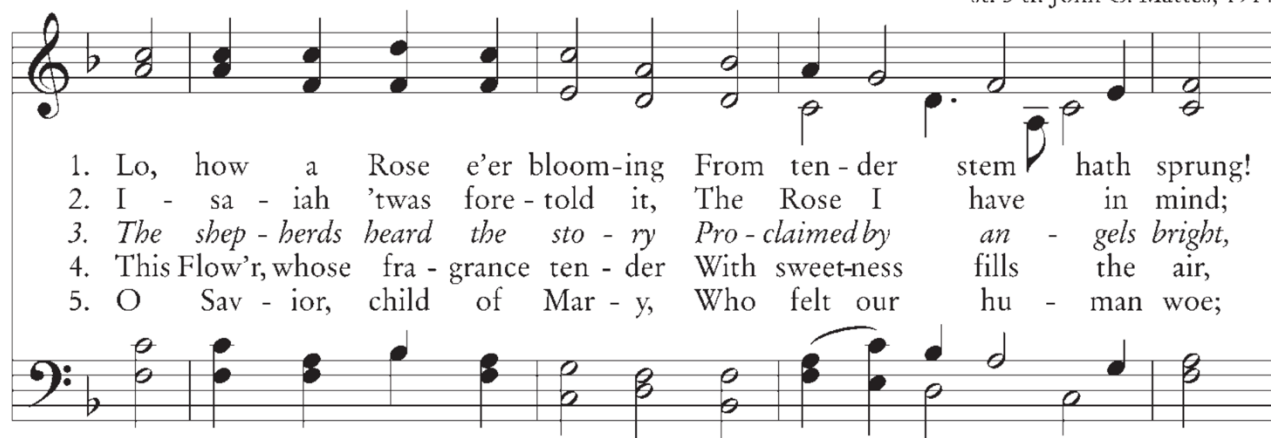
arr. Michael Praetorius, *Musae Sionae*, 1609

German, 15th century

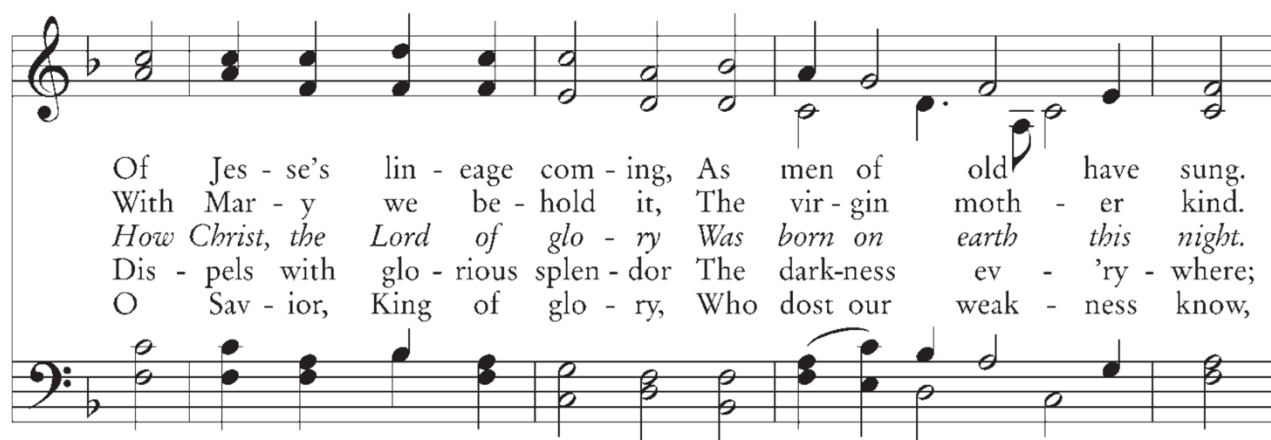
st. 1-2 tr. Theodore Baker, 1894

st. 3 tr. Harriet R. Spaeth, 1875

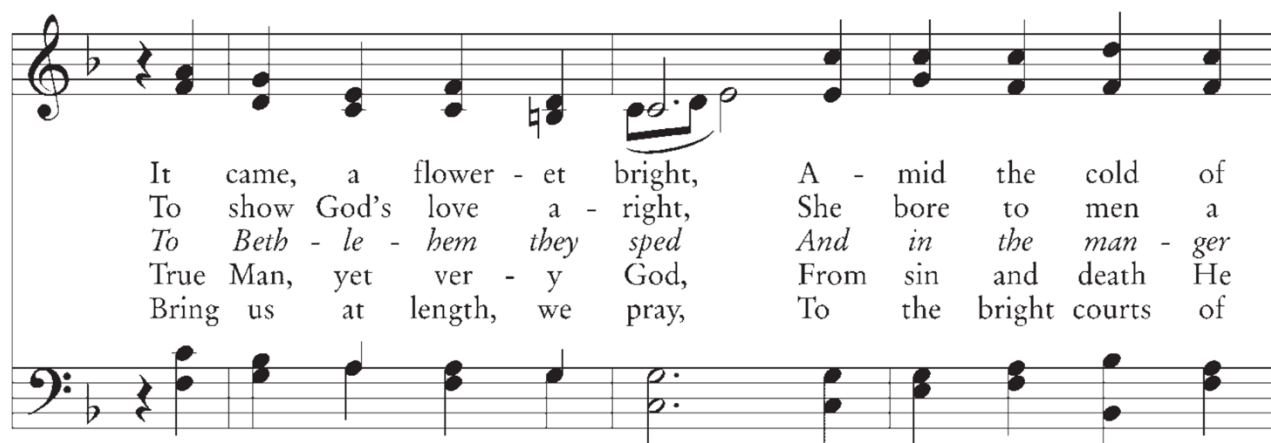
st. 5 tr. John C. Mattes, 1914



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung!
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind;
 3. *The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro - claimed by an - gels bright,*
 4. This Flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man woe;



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, As men of old have sung.
 With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.
How Christ, the Lord of glo - ry Was born on earth this night.
 Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry - where;
 O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness know,



It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a
To Beth - le - hem they sped And in the man - ger
 True Man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death He
 Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of



win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
found Him, As an - gel her - alds said.
 saves us, And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 heav - en And to the end - less day.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King! Peace on earth, and
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord; Late in time, be -
 3. Come, De - sire of Na - tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum - ble home; Rise, the wom - an's
 4. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face; Stamp Thine im - age in its place: Sec - ond Ad - am
 5. Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness! Light and life to



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise,
 hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;
con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head. Now dis - play Thy sav - ing pow'r,
 from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love. Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain,
 all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings. Mild He lays His glo - ry by,



Join the tri - umph of the skies; With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in
 Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em -
Ru - ined na - ture now re - store; Now in mys - tic un - ion join Thine to ours, and
 Thee, the Life, the in - ner man: Oh, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be -
 Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them



Beth - le - hem!"
 man - u - el.
ours to Thine. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"
 liev - ing heart.
 sec - ond birth.



Offertory Prayer:

Pastor: Christians, how do you respond to our Lord?

People: We give only what the Lord has first given to us.

We present ourselves as living sacrifices,

And we offer the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.

We cheerfully give these tithes and offerings

In obedience to the Lord, for the glory of His Name,

The health of the Church, and for the sake of the world.

Amen.

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

The Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By partaking in bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the Session of this local Church that you are in covenant with God in a congregation where the Gospel is faithfully confessed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the pastors before or after the service.

Passing of the Bread: (**"The Lord be with you" "The Lord bless you"**)

Passing of the Wine: (**"The Peace of Christ be with you" "And also with you"**)

Congregational Response: **Gloria Patri**

(Please Stand with Hands Raised)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end,

A-men, A-men.

GOD COMMISSIONS US

The Lord's Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20

Pastor: Our mouths will speak the praise of the Lord!

People: Let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever. Amen!

Psalms 145:21

Closing Hymn:

While Shepherds Watched

People: Amen!

** There are two cry rooms available for children that need to be helped during the service. The room on the left hall as you walk into the sanctuary, is for older children and their parents. If they need to be disciplined or encouraged to quiet down, please calm them down and then please bring them back into worship. The library, in the hall to the right when you walk in, is for nursing mothers. Feel free to use both as needed.*

While Shepherds Watched

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed on the ground,
 2. "Fear not," said he— for might - y dread Had seized their troub - led minds—

melody

The an - gel of the
 "Glad tid - ings of great
 The an - gel of the Lord came down, The
 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring, Glad

The an - gel of the Lord came down, The an - gel
 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring, Glad tid - ings
 Lord joy came down I bring,
 an - gel of the Lord came down, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 tid - ings of great joy I bring, To you and all man - kind.
 an - gel of the Lord came down
 tid - ings of great joy I bring
 of of the great Lord came down
 of of great joy I bring

3. "To you in David's town this day,
 Is born of David's line,
 The Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
 And this shall be the sign:

4. "The Heav'nly Babe you there shall find
 To human view displayed,
 All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
 And in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
 Appeared a shining throng
 Of angels praising God, who thus
 Addressed their joyful song:

6. "All glory be to God on high,
 And to the earth be peace:
 Good will henceforth, from Heav'n to men,
 Begin and never cease!"

Song Of Simeon

Announcements

Pastor: *Go in peace to love and to serve our Risen Lord!*

All: **Amen!**

Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

unison

²⁹Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser - vant de-part in peace, ac-cord-ing to Thy word;

³⁰For mine eyes have seen Thy sal - va - tion, ³¹which Thou hast pre-pared

be - fore the face of all peo-ple—³²A light to light - en the Gen-tiles

and the glo-ry of Thy peo-ple Is - ra - el. *Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther*

and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning,

is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Music: plainchant, Soest, 1532; Pfalz, 1557; arr. Regina H. Fryxell, 1958 ©

Text: Holy Bible, King James Version, 1611

Sermon Text: *Selected Passages*

Sermon Title: The Christmas Gift of Materiality

Outline: Pietism goes back at least 150 years! Pietism is the advocacy for the superiority and preeminence of internalized spirituality, as opposed to externalized acts of mercy. But thanks to the work of Abraham Kuyper and Francis Schaeffer, and many others, there has been a resurgence of true piety, which places both perspectives in their proper place.

Douglas Wilson defines theology as "working out of our fingertips." John Frame defines theology as the application of the Word of God by people to all areas of life. Both definitions fit the profile of our congregation.

Christmas is the most material of seasons. While we may get lost in sentimentalism, Christmas is a gift of materiality (distinct from materialism).

In this sermon, I will outline a brief theology of Christmas as a gift of materiality to the Church!

- I. A World of Miracles
- II. The Materiality of the World
- III. The Role of the Impossible
- IV. The Physicality of Christmas
- V. The Internalization of the Faith
- VI. Christmas Applied

PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Providence Church is a member of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC),
and a member of Athanasius Presbytery.

THE SESSION

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