

*“growing a family  
to reach a community”*

Loving God, loving one another, and embracing  
our community and world with Jesus

# **Lord's Day Worship**

December 20, 2020

## **Call to Worship**

Isaiah 7:13-17

*Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."*

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Hymn #194

Luke 2:4-7

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

**Joy to the World**

Hymn #195

Opening Prayer

## **Confessing Our Sins Together**

Ephesians 4:1-3

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Our most merciful God and gracious Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive us, and by your grace enable us to walk in a manner worthy of your Son, pleasing him in every way, to the glory of your holy name. These things we ask through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

## *Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness*

Psalm 51:1-2

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

***How Wonderful the Father's Love***

Song

***Hallelujah Jesus***

Song

Praying for the Work of Missions in Cusco, Peru

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

***Have Thine Own Way***

Song

## *Hearing God's Word Together*

The Gospel According to Acts

Acts 13. 42-52

*The "Outsider" Gospel*

***Mighty to Save***

Song

Benediction

Philippians 1:9-11

*May your love abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

## *Scripture Reading*

### **Acts 13. 42-52** (English Standard Version)

<sup>42</sup> As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. <sup>43</sup> And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

<sup>44</sup> The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

<sup>46</sup> And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

*"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."*

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. <sup>51</sup> But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

<sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**The Gospel According to Acts**  
**Acts 13. 42-52**  
***The “Outsider” Gospel***

**I. The Setting (vs. 42-44)**

**II. The Effect of the Gospel (vs. 45-52)**

- A. The reaction of the Jews (v. 45)
- B. The response of Paul & Barnabas (vs. 46-47)
- C. The reaction of the Gentiles (vs. 48-49)
- D. The response of the Jews (v. 50)
- E. The reaction of Paul & Barnabas (v. 51)
- F. The response of the disciples (v. 52)

**III. Some Applications for Today**

- 1. Our call is to \_\_\_\_\_ others to hear the good news.
- 2. As outsiders come in, it will expose our real “\_\_\_\_\_”.
- 3. Our task is to speak to those who will \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. God, through His Spirit, is \_\_\_\_\_ at work.

## *Sermon Quotes and References:*

During the following week, many of those who had heard Paul's address spread the news through the city to such good purpose that on the next sabbath day almost the whole Gentile population turned up at the synagogue. Knowing (as we unfortunately do) how pious Christian pew-holders can manifest quite un-Christian indignation when they arrive at church on a Sunday morning to find their places occupied by rank outsiders who have come to hear a popular visiting preacher, we can readily appreciate the annoyance of the Jewish leaders at finding their synagogue practically taken over by a Gentile congregation on this occasion. But there was a further reason for their annoyance: these Gentiles were plainly minded to give a favorable hearing to a message which they themselves, for the most part, found unacceptable.

FF Bruce, The Book of the Acts

<u>Task Schedule</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeting Upper-Level .....	M. Weber .....	Henderson
Sound Booth .....	Ethan/Abby/Nick.....	Ethan/Isaac/Sam
Simulcast Downstairs.....	Eric .....	Eric
Congregational prayer led by ....	Bob Lacock .....	Bob Lacock

**This Week:**

- Today .....Ornament Exchange following morning worship\*.
- Tuesday.....Ladies 2 *Kings*, Christmas Celebration, 9:30 a.m. at church
- Wednesday .....Children’s “*Cocoa and Christ Jesus*” Party, 4 p.m. on Zoom\*\*\*
- Thursday .....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday .....*Merry Christmas!*

**Announcements:**

**\*Homemade Ornament Exchange:** If you have made an ornament for the exchange please meet by the trees in the foyer after worship this morning to give and get yours.

**\*\* Extra Christmas Eve handouts** are on the round table in the foyer, please feel free to invite others to the service.

**\*\*\*Provi Kids** are invited to a special event, a “*Cocoa and Christ Jesus*” party via Zoom on Wednesday, December 23rd at 4 pm. Pick up your special gift bag and choose a snowflake pattern for each child that is appropriate for their age level. Then, join us on Zoom at 4 with your hot cocoa as we sing carols, play games, make our snowflakes and hear a special lesson about the Messiah. Bags are located in between the front doors on the upper level. All kids are welcome but the bags and the lesson will be geared to ages 3-12. The Zoom link and details have been sent through email to you or you can view it on our facebook page. Questions? Reach out to Kimberly Kulp.

**Christmas Stocking Cheer:** Filled Christmas stockings for residents in LifeQuest Village and Katherine Pocius are due today, if you have forgotten yours please see Carol Lacock to make other arrangements. Thank you very much for blessing others this Christmas Season.

**Snacks:** As it is getting colder outside, we have stopped providing snacks and will re-evaluate in the Spring when it’s warmer. Water bottles will be available in between the upper-level doors.

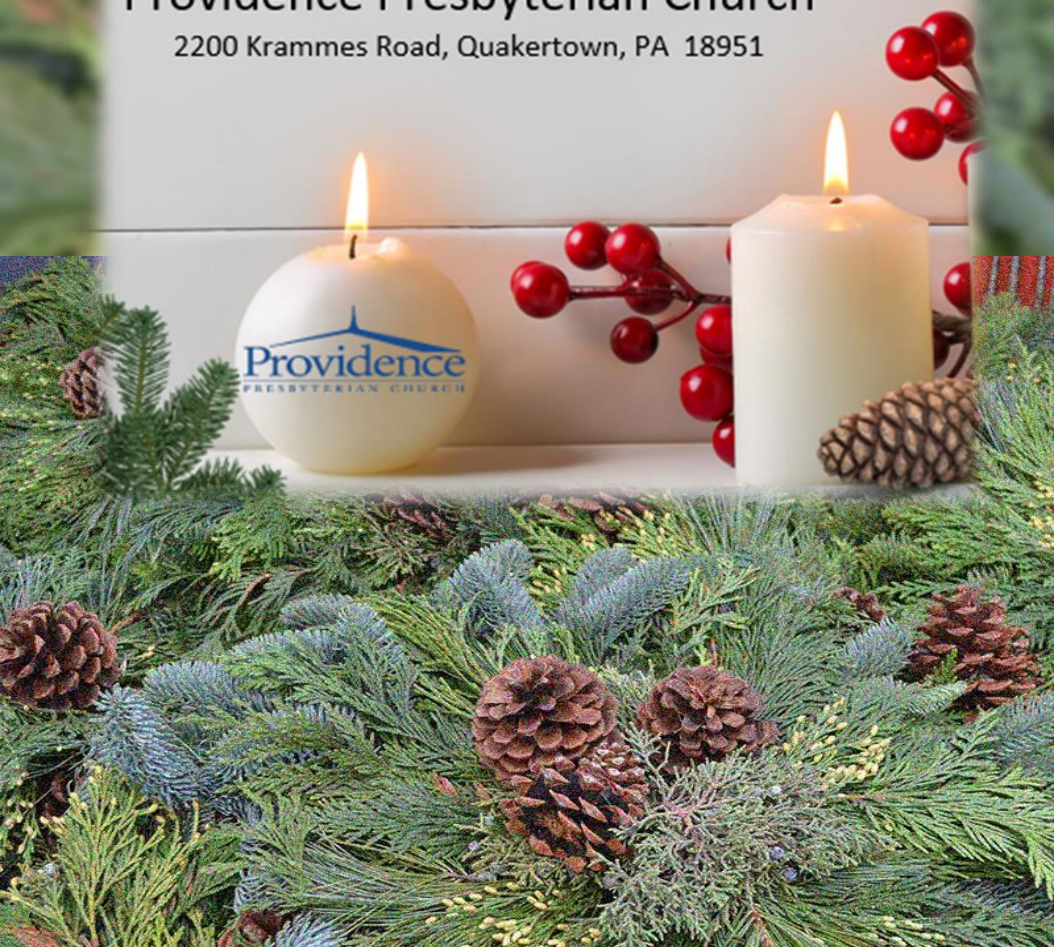
# *Christmas Eve*

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:30 p.m.

Providence Presbyterian Church

2200 Krammes Road, Quakertown, PA 18951







## My Prayer Journey to Cusco

When Barbara Jones, MTW's senior national diversity mobilizer, first invited me to be a part of the Cusco, Peru, prayer journey trip I was intrigued. All of my previous experience on mission trips had been work trips to Latin American countries in which the team I was on was helping to build or repair something (a school, a retreat house for pastors, a church, a camp). Additionally, in virtually every trip I was one of the few people (if not the only person) who spoke Spanish. This trip to Peru, in contrast, was going to be focused on prayer as the front line of kingdom expansion. And thanks to the efforts of MTW's Reformed and Diverse Delegates initiative (RADD) the team was largely comprised of Spanish speakers.

The trip had physical challenges, and living at an elevation of 11,000 feet for seven days proved difficult at times. But what was even more challenging was the spiritual and mentally taxing nature of the trip. The facilitators of the prayer journey, MTW missionaries Ken and Tammie Matlack, were teaching us to see prayer as the crucial work of ministry, as work on the front lines. But we were not just going to do this from the comfort of a room at the church. In order to really understand the importance of prayer, we were going to take the things that we were learning to the streets! And so we learned to prayer walk.

On one walk we went to Casa Josefina, the orphanage run by the MTW Cusco team, to pray for the children and the workers. When we arrived we saw construction of a building next to the orphanage, and one of our team members asked what the structure would be. The missionary informed us that it was going to be a brothel—and so we proceeded to pray! Some of us even laid hands on the building, praying against the evil forces at work. We asked the Lord not to allow the brothel to be built next to the orphanage. We even prayed that the Lord would be so gracious as to allow this building to become a part of Casa Josefina so they can serve more children in the community. We then entered the orphanage and began praying with the small kids in a language they could understand.

As an American it can be tempting to think that the important work I have to offer in the mission field is physical (i.e. construction) or intellectual (i.e. teaching). These are certainly important, but the prayer journey to Cusco reminded us how central the work of prayer is for mission both in Peru and back home.

Omar Ortiz is the leadership development director for Christ the King PCA in Boston. He is also the leader of the Hispanic RADD team with MTW.

*Omar Ortiz, Cusco, Peru, July 21, 2020*