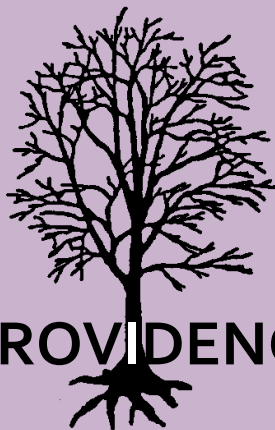




Advent 2016



*Fourth Sunday of Advent,
December 18*



Women of

PROVIDENCE

in Collaboration

“When care of Earth becomes an act of homage, it engages in active love for one’s neighbor particularly the poorest among us. Love requires justice, the virtue of right relationships.” — Mary Kay Nealen, SP

A child is to be born—the God child—into poverty and simplicity. Children, each a child of God, are born. The children with blood on their faces, running from bombs, dying in the sea, are born into poverty and the complexity of disaster. What gift can we give? There are children with too many things and not enough love. What gift can we give?

We give a gift they, and we, have already received—Earth, a place of beauty, security and where God’s glory is revealed. Some see this reality. For others, pain overwhelms the beauty and Earth absorbs blood, tears and cries of the children. We, the gifted, are to cherish and tend the gift of Earth in its beauty. We are to mend and restore the gift where it is being destroyed by greed and war. Land, water and air cry out for care so they can care for the children.

Providence of our God, giver of all that is good, we recognize you in the coming of the Christ Child, in all your children and in Earth. We hear the cries around us—of anguish and of awe. We know you. In love we will be Providence restoring, tending and reverencing Earth and gift the children, in your name, with a place of security and peace.

*Alice Gerdeman, CDP
Melbourne, KY*