

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving Thee, Father, may we go out among Thy children bearing gifts.
Give us warm hearts and sunny faces for all the world. And when
coldness comes may we tarry not where men are but hasten to Thee for
re-kindling. *from Beginning the Day by Dr. Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Sleepers, Wake! For Night is Flying!" J.S. Bach
*The service of worship begins with the music of the organ. Through its power and
brilliance may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, His peace.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Clayton

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Judilyn Brooks, Bill Horton,
Eliza Horton, Alex Horton, and Creedence G.

INTROIT - "Savior of the Nations, Come"
NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O
heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

*HYMN 88 - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its
4 O come, Des - ire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
by thine ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
in one heart and mind; bid - en - vy, strife, and dis - cord



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re joice! Re joice!
show; and teach us in her ways to go.
night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.
cease; fill the whole world with heav - ven's peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION..... Dr. Wilkins

Unison: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all
nations under your rule. We confess that we have not
expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring
your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit
neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and
peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to
welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* GLORIA PATRI (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

MOMENT FOR MISSION.....Helen Walthall

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 64:1-9
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM - "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come".....Paul O. Manz
Peace be to you and grace to Him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All! *Revelation 22, adapted by P.O.M*

SECOND LESSON - Mark 13:24-37 Rev. Clayton
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - TEARING OPEN THE HEAVENS Rev Clayton

The Response to the Word

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH..... Dr. Wilkins
In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God’s good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord!
from A Declaration of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please continue to remember to support the church. Even during this time when in-person attendance is limited, we do have basic necessary bills to cover. Offerings may be submitted online by clicking here, by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts.

- * The Offertory Statement
- * The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606)..... OLD HUNDREDTH
- * The Prayer of Dedication
- The Offertory Anthem – "The Call" Ralph Vaughan Williams
- Richard Stump, *Bass*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death. Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.

George Herbert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On 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.

The Sending

- * HYMN 105 - "People, Look East" BESANÇON

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple look
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple look
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple look
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple look
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple look

east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east and sing to - day: Love, the Bird, is on the way.
east and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.
east and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

- * CHARGE
- * BENEDICTION.....Rev. Clayton

*POSTLUDE - "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying".....Paul Manz

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S ONLINE VISITORS!

We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please provide contact information to Cindy Shaw at 933-3696 or cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Patrick Hayes; Mr. James Patrick Hayes, Jr.; Mrs. Mary Hayes Campbell; Mrs. Susan Hayes Curry; and Mr. and Mrs. William Adolph Brunstad. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bernard Elmer Shealy, WO U.S. Marine Corp, KIA, Battle of Tarawa WWII; uncle of Beth Shealy Adams.

ADVENT AT HOME IN 2020: We are excited to celebrate Advent at Home this year and offer new activities in a time when our holiday traditions will look a bit different. Our hope is to prepare you and your family for Christmas in a current and meaningful way. During Advent season, join fellow IPC members to assemble an at-home Advent wreath with weekly liturgy. Visit us at ipc-usa.org > advent to find the activities and resources.

ADVENT FLOWERS: An online donation form is available at www.ipc-usa.org (click on Sign Up Links under Connect in the menu bar). The names of your loved ones will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **The deadline for submission is tomorrow, Monday, November 30.**

THE IPC CHOIR FRUIT SALE **ends tomorrow on Monday, November 30.** Mail in the form or place an order online at ipc-usa.org/connect. The fruit will be available for curbside pickup December 19 and 20 in Highland Hall.

IPC CHOIR RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE: Detectives Les Intelligent and Fred Knott close the case on the disappearance of beloved choirmaster and organist Jeff McLelland and his lovely wife Amy. Was it a murder or a kidnapping? Are the sopranos really Jeff's favorite section? Would you like to dedicate your IPC pledge in honor of one of Jeff's pugs? Listen to the fourth and final (or any previous) episode of this fictitious film noir on the church podcast <https://ipcusabhm.podbean.com>

IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: You are invited to enjoy the sounds of the holiday season with the IPC choir and an 11-piece string orchestra at 4 pm on Sunday, December 13. Hear works by Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Frideric Handel, Morten Lauridsen, and more. Watch and listen on YouTube or Facebook (search "IPC Birmingham"). Livestream only.

71ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR: We invite you inside four unique homes from the comfort of your home as you help raise money for ministries supporting Birmingham families. The Holiday House Tea in a Bag is available for purchase. Tickets are on sale at ipcholidayhouse.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

STOCKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOLARS: Provide Christmas stockings for graduates of Children's Fresh Air Farm's Summer Learning Program. Stocking stuffers are needed based on age and gender, and you can select one or more camper (or their siblings). All stocking stuffers need to be dropped off in the church parlor by Dec. 15. We request a \$25 limit on each stocking. Sign-up and learn more online at: ipc-usa.org/connect.

GIVING TREE: Our annual alternative Christmas gift opportunity is now available until Sunday, December 20. In the COVID-19 pandemic reality, IPC Social Services has given unprecedented food and financial assistance to our neighbors who are struggling with food, shelter, utilities, transportation, and medical needs. All Giving Tree gifts this year will go to IPC Social Services to support this ministry. To give, visit us online at ipc-usa.org/connect or mail your check to the church (memo: "Giving Tree") On the form, you can indicate how many cards you would like, and we will make cards available in the IPC Parlor. Thank you for your generosity this Advent season.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

AFRICA MISSION FUND: In memory of Fred K. Medley.

IPC CHOIR: In memory of Merrill Eugene Compton, Jr.

IPC FOUNDATION: In memory of Thomas Chambers Joyce.

IPC SPECIAL GIFTS: In memory of Nancy Straub Bean and Terry Vantuyl Chase.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mr. William R. "Bill" Culbertson, Mr. Jimmy N. Joiner, and Mrs. Sue C. White. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds. (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Judge James H. Hancock, Sr.

STAIR: In memory of Ton Pieter DeVos.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Adult and Comm. Ministries
The Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkins, Interim Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Members of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Pastor
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This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)
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