

# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

eight forty-five o'clock  
eleven o'clock



## Service for the Lord's Day

### The Gathering for Worship

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

#### PRELUDE - "Chorale Prelude on ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN" .....

Johannes Brahms

*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..... Dr. Carl

#### RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS (eleven o'clock service)

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds" ..... SCHUMANN

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:*

*The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

#### INTROIT - "Savior of the Nations, Come" .....

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

From God's heart the Savior speeds; back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

#### \*HYMN 274 - "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" .....PICARDY

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP..... Rev. Lays

Minister: But now, thus says the Lord, who created you and formed you:

**All: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.**

Minister: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

**All: When you walk through the fire, the flame shall not consume you.**

Minister: For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

**All: You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.**

Minister: Do not consider the former things, or consider the things of old.

**All: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth.**

Minister: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

**All: So that my people may drink and declare my praise.**

*adapted from Isaiah 43*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison:** Holy and loving God, you call us to make a way for you to the center of our lives, but we have pushed you to the fringes. You call us to live in the assurance of your peace, but we have been worried and distracted by many things. We have acted according to our fears rather than your commandments, and your peace has been far from us. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, O God, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path through the wilderness of our lives that we might welcome your coming to us once again. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, Amen.

*A period of silence for personal confession.*

KYRIE ELEISON *(All Singing)*

**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.**

THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Minister: Let us stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.  
*Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."*

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *(eleven o'clock service)*

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Deuteronomy 34:1-9 (Pew Bible, p. OT191)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM - "This is the record of John" .....Orlando Gibbons

Nick Mathes, *tenor*

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord. *John 1:19-23*

SECOND LESSON - Hebrews 3:1-6 (Pew Bible, p. NT219)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 129 - "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ..... ES IST EIN ROS'  
*During the singing of this hymn at the 8:45 a.m. service, children, kindergarten and younger, may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for worship care. During the 11:00 a.m. service, kindergarten through sixth grade may follow Miss Beth out to Christmas choir rehearsal.*

SERMON - GREATER THAN MOSES.....Dr. Carl

### The Response to the Word

\* APOSTLES' CREED .....Rev. Turner  
**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- \* The Offertory Statement
- \* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....  
OLD HUNDREDTH
- \* The Prayer of Dedication  
The Offertory Anthem – "Glory to God in the Highest" .....  
Randall Thompson  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men.  
*Luke 2:14*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 93 - "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" ..... TRURO
- \* CHARGE
- \* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN
- \* POSTLUDE - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ..... Robert Speed
- \**Congregation standing*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S VISITORS! We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please provide contact information on the Worship Register. We hope you will visit the Welcome Table in the Parlor after the service, where our Welcome Team is eager to meet you over refreshments and share more information about life at IPC and church membership. Contact Cindy Shaw at 933-3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org).

THE FLOWERS in the church today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory and honor of loved ones, and in the Children's Chapel in memory of Alfred Shook Perry and Catherine Shook Perry Smithwick.

THIS MORNING we will be led in lighting the Advent wreath candle by: (8:45 a.m.) Debbie Medenica, Janet Ort, and Leah Pickett. (11:00 a.m.) Carter Cooper, Beth Middleton, and Janet Ort.

THE GIVING TREE for alternative Christmas gifts is available in the church parlor following morning worship services today and all Sundays through December 23, and on Wednesdays until December 19 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the parlor. Local, national, and international groups are featured in this opportunity sponsored by the IPC Hunger Work Group.

IF YOU PURCHASED FRUIT from the choir, it will be available for pickup at Highland Hall today from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIFTH GRADE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT this morning at 10:00 a.m. in Highland Hall. There will be a birthday party for Jesus following the pageant with cake, hot chocolate and lemonade. No Sunday school for children and youth. Please attend the pageant with your parents.

A SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE for all ages continues this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall. Rev. Patrick Harley, Director of UKirk, is preaching. Communion will be served and nursery care will be available.

NATIVITY CHOIR: Children in grades K-6 are welcome to participate in the children's choir that will sing during the Noon Nativity Service on December 24. Rehearsals will be during the sermon time at the 11:00 a.m. service through Sunday, December 23. Children will follow the acolyte out during the 2nd hymn. Pick up will be on the ground floor after the service. Questions? Contact Miss Beth at [bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org).

DOLORES HYDOCK - *FINDING CHRISTMAS*: Sunday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. in Highland Hall. Have you ever thought: This is the year we will have a perfect Christmas? Storyteller Dolores Hydock shares two true stories about that annual hopeful search, and the surprising discovery of where the real spirit of Christmas can be found."

THE ANNUAL IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be next Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m. The choir and brass will perform Poulenc's *Gloria* and anthems for the Christmas season. Invite your friends to this beautiful afternoon of music for the season. Nursery care will be available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

ON CHRISTMAS EVE there will be three worship services: 12:00 noon, A Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Please note that the doors will not open until 3:00 p.m. for the 4:00 service. Nursery care is available for all Christmas Eve services.

THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL CLOSE on December 24 at 12:00 noon and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on December 26. There will be no chapel service on Wednesdays, December 26 and January 2.

### SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM FUND: In memory of Mrs. Jim Stahnke. *(Lift Off Program)* In memory of Lula Rose Blackwell.

IPC SPECIAL GIFTS FUND: In memory of Fred and LaDonna Kusta, Walter Frederick Martens, Mary Ann McCollum, Robbie Owings Sevier.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: *(Chapel Fund)* In memory of Dr. Thomas O. Kennemer, Jr., Mrs. Robbie O. Sevier. *(Horizon Fund)* In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds, Mrs. Robbie O. Sevier. *(Life Care Fund)* In memory of Mrs. Robbie O. Sevier.

MUSIC FUND: In memory of Charles A. Moss, Jr.

### BAPTISM TODAY *(11:00 a.m. service)*

**WILLIAM SELWYN McLEOD**, born July 16, 2018, son of David McLeod and Brooke McLeod; grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Selwyn Evins III; great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Gregory Wall.

### Participants in Today's Services

Dr. William J. Carl III, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Brian Lays, Associate Pastor, Congregational Ministries  
The Rev. Lucy E. Turner, Executive Associate Pastor  
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director, Music and Fine Arts  
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir  
**Acolytes:** *(8:45 a.m.)* Barbara Bugg Holloway, Sarah McCarty Huddle, Abigail Gearhart Murphree  
*(11:00 a.m.)* Hilyer Henry Jones, Hardwick Parks Walthall, Martha Lucille Walthall

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday  
*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
**www.ipc-usa.org**