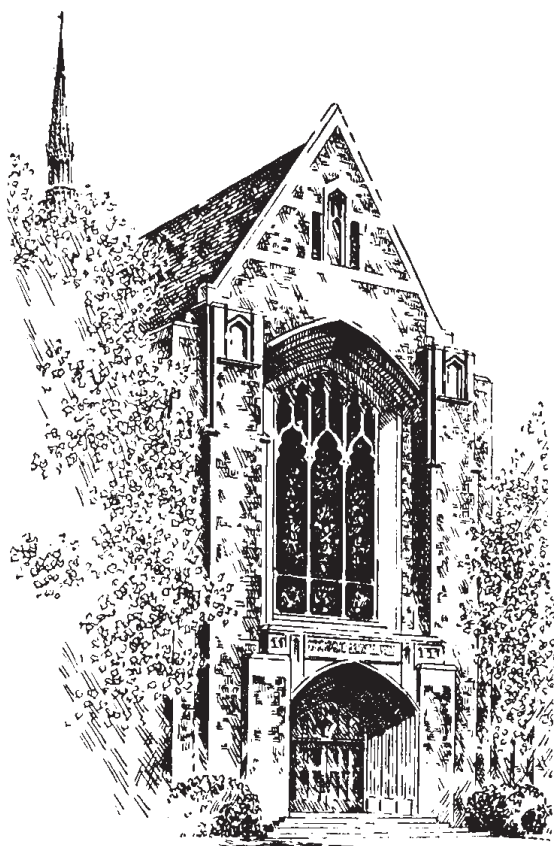


Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021

eight forty-five o'clock
eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be born again, O Christ, in every heart. May there be room for Thee in every home, a wealth of welcome in every soul. Make us all dearer to each other by Thy presence, make all our gifts more precious by the light of Thy face. Bring in the larger, truer, richer, sweeter life.
from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Prelude on *Divinuym Mysterium*" T. Frederick H. Candlyn
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.

INTROIT - "The Lord our God hath shewn us his glory"
George Thalben-Ball
The Lord our God hath shown us his glory. O come, let us adore him.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
(eight forty-five) Cindy, Bud, George, and Laurel Keller
(eleven o'clock) Robert, Anna Kate, Abigail, Hattie, and Laura Donovan

* HYMN 88 - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (*verses 1, 5-7*)
VENI EMMANUEL

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Seamon
Unison: Forgive my sins, O Lord; the sins of my soul and the sins of my body; the sins I have done to please myself and the sins I have done to please others. Forgive those sins which I know and those which I know not. Forgive them all in your mercy, that I may share the hope of the prophets, the songs of the angels, and the wonder of the shepherds. Cleanse my soul that your son, when he comes, may find a dwelling place in me. In Christ's name we pray. 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, this is the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* THE PEACE
Minister: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us 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)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 40:3-5

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM - "And the glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* George Handel

During the singing of this anthem, children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for worship care.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. *Isaiah 40:5*

SECOND LESSON - Luke 1:57-66

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - THE SILENCE IS BROKEN Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 177 - "I Will Come to You" YOU ARE MINE

* APOSTLES' CREED Rev. Clayton

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 – "O Thou, the Central Orb" Charles Wood

O Thou the central orb of righteous love, Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine, Gilding our darksome heav'n with rays Divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move, As stars about Thy throne, set in the height Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight Gives measur'd grace to each, Thy power to prove. Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, Our nature all shall feel eternal day, In fellowship with Thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen. *H.R. Bramley*

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 93 - "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"..... TRURO

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE - "In Dulci Jubilo"Johann Sebastian Bach

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship Services. If you are looking for a church to grow in your faith, you are welcome here at IPC! We invite you to join us at our next IPC WELCOME event to learn more – sign up online at www.ipc-usa.org or email Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org. We look forward to personally meeting you. **PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE** by signing the registers in the pews, then passing them down to others.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carleton Benners Parnell. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Julian Skinner IV, Alabama Army National Guard; son of Nancy Skinner and the late Julian Skinner.

ADULT DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL: IPC Member and Storyteller Dolores Hydock will offer Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" today in Highland Hall at 10 am. Please join us for this heartwarming and meaningful tradition you will never forget.

IF YOU ORDERED FRUIT FROM THE CHOIR, please remember to pick it up today from the Garage at Highland Hall if you have not already done so. Pick-up times are 9 am until 4 pm. Thank you for supporting the IPC Choir!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS are now available. Purchase this beautiful gift for \$20 in the Parlor after each morning worship service or at www.ipc-usa.org/connect. All proceeds benefit Youth programs at IPC. Contact Susan at sdukes@ipc-usa.org for questions.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT: You can honor a loved one with a Giving Tree donation made in their name to IPC Social Services and/or the Children's Fresh Air Farm. Donations \$5-\$10+ are accepted to help our struggling neighbors. You can make your purchase in the Parlor today or donate online at ipc-usa.org/connect. Cards will be provided for you to present to your gift recipient(s). **Today is the last day to make your purchase.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

IPC CONNECT(ING) TO BEER AND CAROLS: Join us tomorrow on Monday, Dec. 20, 6 – 9 pm at Iron City Grill for IPC Connect's Christmas Party with Beer & Carols. Doors open at 6 pm. Children's Christmas songs begin at 6:30 pm and Christmas carols at 7 pm. Dress children in Christmas pajamas!

IPC CONNECT GOES TO BROADWAY: Join IPC Connect for an exclusive showing of *Dear Evan Hansen* on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, at the BJCC Concert Hall. To gain access to IPC's special group price, use the purchase link listed at ipc-usa.org/connect with promo code IPCCONNECT. **Today is the last day for the promo code.**

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Please note, IPC offices close at noon on Christmas Eve, December 24, and are closed all day on Monday, December 27. Church offices close at noon on New Year's Eve, December 31, and are closed all day on Monday, January 3.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT IPC: All are welcome to our noon family-friendly celebration of Christ's birth including the lighting of the Advent Wreath, a Christmas story, singing, and prayers. We are offering our traditional Christmas Eve service at both 4 pm and 6 pm. Arrive early to get a seat. The 4 pm service will be available via livestream and doors open at 3 pm. Childcare is available for all services.

TORNADO DISASTER RELIEF: Donate to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) at pcusa.org/DT21 or by phone at (800) 872-3283 to help those affected and devastated by the December 10 tornadoes.

ANNUAL PLEDGING: Thank you to those who have made a new or renewed commitment to IPC's annual stewardship campaign. We have strong momentum as we approach the end of our campaign, and it's not too late to submit your 2022 pledge to become part of the exciting things that God is doing at IPC. You can scan the code to the right to enter your 2022 pledge, find printed pledge cards in various information areas around the church, or access our online pledge form at ipc-usa.org/give. The stewardship team or members of the clergy are available to help answer any questions you might have.



YEAR-END GIVING: As the needs of the congregation and our community continue to grow, year-end gifts are a way to bless our church and allow our ministries to continue to flourish. If you plan to make a charitable contribution before the end of the year, please consider IPC. You can scan the code to the right to make a gift now, place a gift in the offering plate during an IPC service, or visit ipc-usa.org/give. The last day to make a year-end gift is December 31. Please contact Patricia Harper at pharper@ipc-usa.



ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

HOLIDAY ECO-TIPS: Recycle your broken Christmas tree lights, old electronics/small appliances, and more at ProTec, located at 135 Distribution Drive, Homewood, 35209. Residential drop-offs are received weekdays 8am - 4pm. Drop-off Receiving is at the back of the building at door 133. Please call (205) 549-2120, opt. 4, upon arrival. Visit their website at [Protecrcycling.com](http://Protecrecycling.com) ("Our Services" > "Residential Services") for more details. And finally, don't forget to recycle all your Christmas paper giftwrap in your curbside recycling.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB will meet again in January 2022. We will be led by Sheri Robinson with support from Rev. Melissa Self Patrick. Our first book will be *Fearless Dialogues* by Dr. Gregory C. Ellison. This group will also plan an IPC journey to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum in Montgomery in Spring 2022. If you're interested in participating, please contact Sheri at Robinson.sheri@gmail.com or Melissa at mpatrick@ipc-usa.org or (205) 933-3709.

AL-ANON MEETINGS: Are you interested in helping organize or participate in Al-Anon meetings at IPC beginning in 2022? If yes, please contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at (205) 933-3709. She will share more information with you about a planning meeting set for January 2022.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM: In memory of Hayes Aldridge Collins, Kenneth Little, and James David Shirley. In honor of Paul Compton.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Employee Christmas Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Margaret B. "Marmie" Moyer. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Betty P. Baker and Mr. William F. Edmonds. (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Mr. Robert G. "Bob" Tate.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir
Acolytes: (*eight forty-five*) Reed Thomas Warburton, Jr.
(*eleven o'clock*) Halli Francis Hollingsworth, Heidi Dale Hollingsworth,
Charlotte Goodner Walthall

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This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.ipc-usa.org