

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY (continued)

HOLIDAY HOUSE TICKETS are available for the 72nd Annual Holiday House Tour! Festivities kick off with an IN-PERSON Holiday House Tea on Saturday only, December 11, 10am - 4pm. The tour, which features the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Calvin, Mr. Bart McCorquodale, and Mr. Merrill Stewart along with the retreat venue Pursell Farms, will be VIRTUAL again this year so that you can enjoy it from the comfort of your own home. View the tour throughout the holiday season and purchase tickets for out-of-town friends and family! For more information on the featured properties, please visit ipcholidayhouse.com. Tickets are available for sale online as well as in the Parlor during the month of November. Sales benefit programs that directly support women and children in the presbytery and in IPC Community Ministries. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Miles at elizabethsimms@me.com.

STOCKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOLARS: Provide Christmas stockings for graduates of the Children's Fresh Air Farm's Summer Learning Program and Lift Off. Stocking stuffers are needed based on age and gender, and you can select one or more student (or their siblings). All stocking stuffers need to be dropped off at the church by Sunday, December 12. Sign-up for stockings at ipc-usa.org/connect.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS are now available. Purchase this beautiful gift for \$20 at www.ipc-usa.org/connect. All proceeds benefit Youth programs at IPC.

THE ANNUAL IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be Sunday, December 12, at 4:00 p.m. The choir and orchestra will perform beloved works including Vivaldi's Gloria. Invite your friends to this beautiful afternoon of music for the season.

IPC CONNECT(ING) TO BEER AND CAROLS: Join us 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 for a festive music event with fellowship, good food, beverages, and fun party favors. 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. The Promo Code is active until Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021.

2022 ANNUAL GIVING: Thanks so much to all who have already pledged. The response so far is very promising for the life and mission of IPC and its members. For those who have not yet pledged, we hope that you will prayerfully consider doing so and becoming a part of the exciting things that God is doing at IPC. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the stewardship team or members of the clergy if you want to discuss.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
Senior Pastor
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Rev. Susan Clayton
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Rev. David Seamon
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Kenya Glasco
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Kevin J. Long	Pastor
Rev. Susan A. Clayton	Associate Pastor, Congr. Care & Adult Ed.
Beth Middleton	Music Coordinator
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
William Yarbrough	Acoustic Guitar
Riley Mitchell	Piano
Joseph Scholl	Reader
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Tommy Brown	Trumpet
Ryan Scholl	Vocals
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: Roundel with Annunciation to the Virgin, a stained-glass roundel created around 1500-1510 by a workshop in the South Netherlands. The roundel shows a typical depiction of the Annunciation with Gabriel standing on the left in front of the windows and Mary kneeling on the right. Gabriel has interrupted her scholarly pursuits of scripture and the law in her wealthy Renaissance bedchamber. He points upward at a gold banner (a *bandarole*) containing his greeting to indicate that he is speaking. Mary's upraised left hand shows her initial surprise while her right hand presses against her chest to indicate her humility and acceptance.

The vase of lilies behind them symbolizes both Mary's purity as well as the setting of the Annunciation. There was a tradition that the Annunciation occurred in Nazareth on March 25 (springtime), and thus a poetry was born that the Flower (Jesus as the Flower of Jesse) will be born of a flower (Mary as a lily or rose) in "Flower" (Nazareth) in the season of flowers (springtime-but since December 25th falls in winter in the northern hemisphere, this was reinterpreted later to mean Mary's purity). Gabriel wears the vestments of a deacon on a grand feast day, with a cope (fancy cape-like vestment) and morse (brooch). Early Netherlandish painting in particular included lots of domestic objects such as the plates, list, etc. that reinforced the theology of the scene. *Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*



Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205
Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 | Phone: 205.933.1830
www.ipc-usa.org | www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



DECEMBER 5, 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Open · Affirming · Welcoming
WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Table.
As you prepare yourself for worship,
we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

“Lord, art Thou ever far from me? My face is oftentimes turned away from Thee, but Thou art always waiting for me to turn again. I wander into far places, but Thou art there before, by my side, begging entrance into my sad heart.”

from “Beginning the Day” by Henry Edmonds

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Table follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season of Advent, which starts the liturgical year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. It is signified by the color violet which represents hope as well as prayer, penance, and sacrifice. It is a time of preparation and longing for the coming of Christ in the humble flesh, in our daily hearts, and in glory forevermore.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

E-mail or call us: We would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. Please reach out to us by contacting Stacy Pulliam at 205.933.3690 and spulliam@ipc-usa.org or Cindy Shaw at 205.933.3696 and cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

Visit our website: ipc-usa.org/welcome

GATHERING

We *gather* as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

Prelude *“Magnificat”*

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*

+Gathering Music *“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”*
“John Spoke as a Prophet”
to the tune of “To God Be the Glory”

LISTENING

We *listen* for the word of God through confession, passing the peace, Scripture, and preaching

+Prayer of Confession (unison)

O Lord, you have called us to prepare for your arrival. But we confess that we have been content with lesser things. Rather than preparing for hope, we have remained mired in our fear. Rather than preparing for joy, we have already crowded our lives with frantic schedules and discouraging expectations. Forgive us for living as if you will not come. Free us to receive your advent. In the name of the coming Savior we pray.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

+Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

+Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Please exchange the peace with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

+Confessional Response *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: *How Can This Be?*

RESPONDING

We *respond* to the hearing of God's word through reflection, prayer, offering and communion

+Hymn

“Mary Heard the Angel's Message”
to the tune of “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Sharing of Gifts

*In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty.
Please place your gifts in the basket in the back as you leave.*

Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

- 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.

- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Song: *“Receive”*
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

We are *sent* out into the world to love God and our neighbors

+Closing Hymn #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
verses 1 and 2

+Benediction

Postlude

*Our service is over, let our service begin.
fed by mystery, forgiven of sin.
Now our faith made real, when brokenness we heal.
our service is over, let our service begin.*

+Rise in Body or Spirit

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS! We would love to welcome you as a new member of our family of faith at IPC. Please indicate your interest by contacting Stacy Pulliam at the church office, 933-3731. “Like” us on Facebook at IPCBirmingham.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, December 12, 2021, to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The business meeting will begin immediately following the worship service. The purposes of the meeting are 1) To elect Elders for the class of 2024, 2) To elect Deacons for the class of 2024, 3) To elect a Youth Elder and Youth Deacon, 4) To elect a President and Vice President of the Congregation, 5) To elect members of the IPC Foundation Board of Directors, and 6) To elect members of the Representative Nominating Committee for the class of 2024. No other business may be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session, Kevin J. Long, Moderator; Beverley T. Krannich, Clerk.