

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY (continued)

CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP: Children can attend our annual Advent Workshop on Saturday, December 4, from 9 am – 12 pm in Highland Hall for a morning filled with crafts, holiday movies, and fellowship. Christmas pajamas are welcome. Sign up to attend at ipc-usa.org/connect.

PARENTS DATE NIGHT/KIDS FUN NIGHT is Wednesday, December 3. Our Kids Fun Night for December is our Christmas Party for children 5K – 6th grade. Dinner will be provided (\$4 per child), and nursery care for babies - 4s is available by reservation. Sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect.

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 elizabethsims@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.

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!

2022 PLEDGES: Thank you to those who have already turned in your pledges for 2022. It allows us to continue and expand the important ministries of IPC as well as help plan the church budget for next year. For those who still need to submit pledges, please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give. Find printed pledge cards in various information areas around the church and our online pledge form at ipc-usa.org/give/2022-annual-giving.html.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
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Rev. Susan Clayton
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Rev. David Seamon
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Beth Middleton
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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 and Vocals
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
William Yarbrough	Acoustic Guitar
Riley Mitchell	Piano
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Tommy Brown	Trumpet
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: Roundel with Saint John the Baptist, a stained-glass roundel created around 1510-1520 by a workshop in the South Netherlands.

In Western art, John the Baptist is often shown as an ascetic wearing camel hair clothing. He may hold a staff and a scroll inscribed "Ecce Agnus Dei," or he bears a book or dish with a lamb on it. John was also often shown by himself as an adolescent or adult, usually already wearing his distinctive dress and carrying a long thin wooden cross – a theme influenced by Leonardo da Vinci. Often he is accompanied by a lamb, especially in the many Early Netherlandish paintings which showed him in normal clothing.

Modified text and image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



NOVEMBER 28, 2021

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



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)

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:

“O Spirit of the living God, Thou art pervasive. Thou besettest us everywhere. In every stillness we hear Thy knocking. Thou art always at the door. O steal in somehow and move upon us that we may open to Thee and receive Thee, Thou radiant Guest..”

from “Beginning the Day” by Henry Edmunds

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 *“Come Light Our Hearts”*

Welcome

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

+Gathering Music *“Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort”*
to the tune of “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

“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)

Gracious Lord God, you have promised to always be with us, yet we have often lived as if we are on our own. You have promised to always hear our prayers, yet we have often prayed with disbelief. Forgive us, O God, when we have assumed that you are no longer involved in our lives. Prepare our hearts to receive your Son that we might experience the new life that only he can bring. In Christ’s name 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 1:5-25

Sermon: Your Prayer Has Been Heard

RESPONDING

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

+Hymn #465 *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

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: *“O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines”*
- 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 7

+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.