



# "WHERE SHALL WISDOM BE FOUND?"

2022-2023  
evensong  
at IPC • 4 p.m.

## A LENTEN SERVICE SEEKING GOD'S WISDOM

FEBRUARY 26, 2023  
4 P.M.

THE REV. LANT DAVIS, *OFFICIANT*  
DR. JEFF McLELLAND, *CHOIRMASTER*  
JASON PEDEAUX, *ORGANIST*  
NICK MATHES, *CANTOR*

THE IPC CAMERATA

THE REV. KEVIN J. LONG, *PASTOR*  
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

# INTROIT – "The Advent Prose" ..... Plainchant

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness. Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised you. We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities. You are my witness, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away. Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer.

## GREETING

*Officiant* Wisdom cries out in the street; in the square she raises her voice.

**All** To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

*Officiant* At the busiest corner wisdom cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.

**All** Take my instructions instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold.  
For wisdom is better than jewels,  
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

*Officiant* Lord Jesus Christ, we gladly gather in answer to your life-giving Word.  
Grant us grace with one heart and voice to praise your name  
to the glory of God the Father.

**All** Amen.

*from Proverbs 1 & 8*

## \*HYMN – "All my hope on God is founded" ..... Herbert Howells (1892-1983)



1. All my hope on God is found - ed; He doth still my trust re - new.  
2. Hu - man pride and earth ly glo - ry, Sword and crown be - tray his trust;  
3. God's great good-ness aye en - dur - eth, Deep his wis-dom, pass - ing thought;  
4. Dai - ly doth th'a- migh ty giv - er Boun-teous gifts on us be - stow;  
5. Still from earth to God e - ter - nal Sa - cri - fice of praise be done,



Me through change and chance he gui - deth, On - ly good and on - ly true.  
What with care and toil he build - eth, Tower and tem - ple, fall to dust.  
Splend - dor, light, and life at - tend him, Beau - ty spring - eth out of naught.  
His de - sire our soul de - light - eth, Plea - sure leads us where we go.  
High a - bove all prai - ses prai - sing For the gift of Christ his Son.



God un - known, He a - lone Calls my heart to be his own.  
But God's power, Hour by hour, Is my tem - ple and my tower.  
Ev - er - more From his store New-born worlds rise and a - dore.  
Love doth stand At his hand; Joy doth wait on his com - mand.  
Christ doth call one and all: Ye who fol - low shall not fall.

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*Officiant* Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.  
Let us return to the Lord that he may have mercy on us, and to our God,  
for he will abundantly pardon.  
We doubt that every good and perfect gift comes from our Father in heaven;  
Lord have mercy:

**All Lord have mercy**

*Officiant* We forget that in Christ are hidden all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom;  
Christ have mercy;

**All Christ have mercy**

*Officiant* We trust in worldly wisdom rather than the ways of the Spirit  
Lord have mercy;

**All Lord have mercy.**

KYRIE ..... Harold Darke  
(1888-1976)

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

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

## ABSOLUTION AND COLLECT

*Officiant* The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*Officiant* God of ages, you call the Church to keep watch in the world  
and to discern the signs of the times.  
Grant us the wisdom which your Spirit bestows,  
that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word  
and complete the work that you have set before us.  
We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

PSALM 19:7-11 .....Anglican Chant

*The people stand for the GLORIA.*

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.

By them also is your servant taught and in keeping them there is great reward.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

*The people sit.*

HYMN – "How deep the Father's love for us" .....Stuart Townend  
(b. 1963)



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all mea - sure, that  
2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his shoul - ders; a -  
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing, no gifts, no power, no wis - dom; but



he should give his on - ly Son to make a wretch his trea - sure. How  
shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call out a-mong the scoff - ers. It  
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, his death and re - sur - rec - tion. Why



great the pain of sear-ing loss; the Fa - ther turns his face a - way, as  
was my sin that held him there, un - til it was ac - com - plished his  
should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer; but



wounds which mar the cho - sen One bring ma - ny souls to glo - ry.  
dy - ing breath has brought me life I know that 'it is fin - ished'.  
this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ran - som.

READING – Proverbs 3:13-26

MAGNIFICAT ..... Thomas Pavlechko

*The people stand for the GLORIA.* (b. 1962)

My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me bless'd; for the one who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. His mercy is on those who fear him from one generation to another. He has shown strength with his arm; He has scattered the proud in their conceit; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy. The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

*Luke 1:46-55*

*The people sit.*

READING – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

CANTICLE – "Song of Wisdom" ..... Grayston Ives  
(b. 1948)

Send Wisdom forth from your holy heav'ns; from the throne of your glory send what is pleasing to you. God of our ancestors and Lord of mercy: you have made all things by your word. By your wisdom you have formed us: to have dominion over the creatures you have made. To rule the world in holiness and righteousness: and to pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul. Give us the wisdom that sits by your throne: do not reject us from among your servants. For we are your servants: with little understanding of judgement and laws. Even one who is perfect among us: will be regarded as nothing without the wisdom that comes from you. With you is Wisdom, she who knows your works: and was present when you made the world: She understands what is pleasing in your sight: and what is right according to your commandments. Send her forth from the holy heavens: from the throne of your glory send her. That she may labour at our side: and that we may learn what is pleasing to you. For she knows and understands all things: she will guide us wisely in our actions and guard us with her glory.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Officiant* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom.  
Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom,  
we pray for all Christian people;  
for all Christian leaders,  
and for those who teach and guard the faith...  
May the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts,  
and knit us together in the bond of your love.  
Hear us.

**All      Hear us, good Lord.**

*Officiant* We pray for the leaders of the nations,  
and for those in authority under them...  
Give them the gift of your wisdom,  
and a right discernment in all things.  
Hear us.

**All      Hear us, good Lord.**

*Officiant* We pray for our city;  
for those who live and work here,  
and for those who visit this place...  
Speak your word of peace in our midst,  
and help us to serve one another wisely as Christ has served us.  
Hear us.

**All      Hear us, good Lord.**

*Officiant* We pray for those who do not believe,  
and yet who long to know you, the source of life and wisdom...  
Open their ears to hear your voice,  
and open their hearts to the knowledge of your love in Christ.  
Hear us.

**All      Hear us, good Lord.**

*Officiant* We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness,  
especially...  
May your living Word bring comfort and healing  
to all those in need.  
Hear us.

**All      Hear us, good Lord.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Officiant* Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us.

**All      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.**

ANTHEM – "Where shall wisdom be found?" ..... Peter Moger  
Where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Truly the fear of the Lord,  
that is wisdom: Lord, that is wisdom: and to depart from evil is understanding. Where shall wisdom  
be found? And where is the place of understanding?

## THE BLESSING

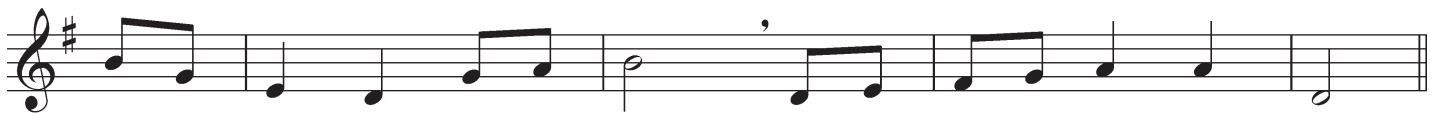
**Officiant** May you be filled with the knowledge of God's will  
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,  
that you may lead lives fully pleasing to the Lord,  
as you bear fruit in every good work;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always

**All**            **Amen.**

\*HYMN – "Who can measure heaven and earth?" ..... David Evans  
(1874-1948)



1. Who can mea - sure heaven and earth?      God was pre - sent at their birth;  
2. Who can tell what wis - dom brings,      first of all cre - a - ted things?  
3. Wis - dom in his plans he laid,      plant - ed her in all he made;  
4. Wis - dom gives the sur - est wealth,      brings her child - ren life and health;



who can num - ber seeds or sands?      ev - ery grain is in his hands:  
One a - lone is tru - ly wise,      hid - den from our earth - bound eyes:  
grant - ed her to hu - man - kind,      sowed her truth in e - very mind:  
teach - es us to fear the Lord,      marks a u - ni - verse re - stored:



through cre - a - tion's count - less days      ev - ery dawn sings out his praise.  
know - ledge lies in him a - lone God, the Lord up - on his throne!  
but with\_ rich - est wis - dom blessed those who love him first and best.  
heaven and\_ earth she will out - last hap - py those who hold her fast!

*Those who wish to stay may be seated after the recession.*

## CLOSING VOLUNTARIES

Sept Improvisations, Op. 150.....Camille Saint-Saëns  
VII. Allegro giocoso (1835-1921)

Fantasie and Fugue in C minor, BWV 537.....Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Twelve Hymn-Preludes, Op. 38.....Seth Bingham  
Bethany ("Nearer, My God to Thee") (1882-1972)  
Toplady ("Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me")  
Olivet ("My Faith Looks Up to Thee")

Toccata pour Grand Orgue.....Gaston Béliet  
(1863-1938)

Jason Pedeaux, *Organ*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### About the Organist

**JASON PEDEAUX** serves as Organist and Director of Instrumental Ensembles at First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa. He Holds degrees from Louisiana State University (BM, piano performance) and the University of North Texas (MM, organ performance). In addition to his work at FPC, Jason is an active collaborative keyboardist at the University of Alabama.



**INDEPENDENT**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35205**  
**IPC-USA.ORG**