



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 75, No. 49

December 4, 2022

Service for the Lord's Day
eight forty-five and eleven o'clock

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Grant us the gift of Thy Spirit, O great God. May He be to us the Spirit of truth, for we would know. May He be to us the Spirit of power, for we would do. And may our prayer be so full of willingness that even now we shall receive Him.
from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Vocalise" Sergei Rachmaninoff
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 - "Creator of the Stars of Night" Sarum plainsong
When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild. *verse 2*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
(eight forty-five) Jan and Robert Posey
(eleven o'clock) David, Laura, Mabel, and Henry Fleenor

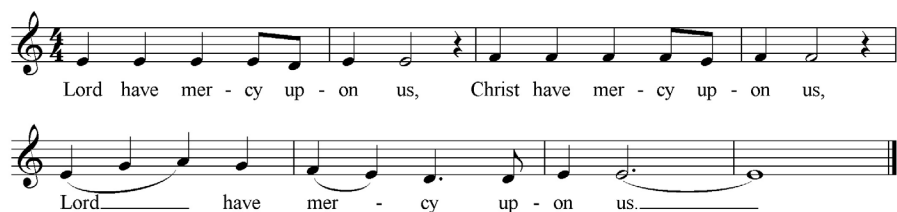
* HYMN 82 - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Seamon

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. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

* KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service* by Jeff McLelland)



* DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe 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 (from *The Independent Service*)



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Matthew 14:13-21 (Pew Bible, p. NT16)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

During the singing of this hymn, children K-6th may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to join Miss Beth on the Ground Floor for Nativity Choir rehearsal. Children 4 and under may go to worship care.

*HYMN 509 - "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" HOLY MANNA

SECOND LESSON - 1 Kings 17:8-16 (Pew Bible, p. OT349-350)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - HARBINGERS OF THE SAVIOR: ELIJAH.....Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED.....Rev. Seamon

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. 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 –

"Prepare Thyself, Zion" from *The Christmas Oratorio*
Johann Sebastian Bach

Jane Stump, *Alto*

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, The purest, the fairest, this day to receive. Thou must meet Him with a heart with love o'erflowing! Haste, then, with ardour the Bridegroom to welcome.

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE.....Rev. Clayton

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

SANCTUS (from *The Independent Service*)

introduction

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
10 po-wer and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na
18 in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the
25 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The minister continues in prayer:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (from *The Independent Service*)

Christ has died, Christ is ri-sen, Christ will come a - gain!

The minister continues in prayer:

AMEN (from *The Independent Service*)

A - men, A - men, A - - - men!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*In unison*)

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Pervasive, Never-absent One"Joel Martinson
Pervasive, never-absent one whose name is Mystery, whose close companionship we sense, whose face we yearn to see: come to those who seek you, who long for the sound of your voice. Hov'ring elusive one, come! Indwelling, everpresent one whose nearness we have known, whose hand has soothed us in distress, whose love precedes our own: come to those who seek you, who long for the sound of your voice. Immanent advent one, come! Unfettered spirit, living one whose gifts are freely sown, whose breath and grace abide in us, in flesh and blood and bone: come to those who seek you, who long for the sound of your voice. Future-transforming one, come!
Delores Dufner, Order of Saint Benedict

"Ave Verum Corpus"W. A. Mozart
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie, O Jesu, fili Mariae. Miserere nobis. Amen.

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed: Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death! O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on us. Amen.

14th-century chant attributed to Pope Innocent VI

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

*HYMN 104 - "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE - "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (*eight forty-five*).....
Paul Manz

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (*eleven o'clock*)

**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 ROSE in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth on November 8, 2022, of Luther Barner Lanier III ("Luke"), son of Amanda and Luke Lanier, grandson of Barbara and Barney Lanier. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lewis R. Timberlake, U.S. Naval Air Corps, Lieutenant Junior Grade; who received 14 decorations including the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, The President's Citation, and the Philippines Liberation Medal; father of Don Timberlake.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN HIGHLAND HALL: A light breakfast starts at 9:30 am in the Garage. At 10 am, Dr. Clara Gerhardt will give a parenting lecture on "Roots and Wings: And Other Parenting Things" in the Garage and Dr. Jeff Leonard will present a holiday lecture "Two Stories in One Nativity Set: Looking at the Birth of Jesus in Matthew and Luke" in the Assembly Room. Childcare starts at 9:30 am in the Atrium waiting room.

IN THE PARLOR: Between morning services, find gift ideas that support IPC's mission and ministry. Purchase Giving Tree cards from Community Ministries and Social Services, select an IPC Ornament from Youth Ministries, and gift a choir CD or stained glass roundel from the Choir. Items are also available at the receptionist desk during weekday church office hours.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY CHOIR PRACTICE (K-6TH): Sing with us on Christmas Eve! We rehearse the first three Sundays in December during the 11am service: December 4, 11 & 18. Kids follow the acolyte out of the sanctuary during the hymn before the sermon. Pick-up is on the Ground Floor in Room G20 (the Run-Around Room) at the end of the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for today, December 4, 2022, 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 to elect 1) Elders for the class of 2025, 2) Deacons for the class of 2025, 3) a Youth Elder and Youth Deacon, 4) a President and Vice President of the Congregation, 5) members of the IPC Foundation Board of Directors, 6) members of the Representative Nominating Committee for the class of 2025, and 7) members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. No other business may be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 28 GREENERY SALE: Find wreaths and more online at giftitforward.com. Enter the Troop Fundraising Code: TROOPBAL101 and the Referring Name: TROOP 28 where prompted. Orders accepted until Dec. 9. For questions, contact Matt Lyons at (612) 670-8494.

THE 73RD ANNUAL IPC HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR is Saturday, Dec. 10. Celebrate the Christmas season with our virtual home tour. Come to an afternoon Christmas Tea in the Great Hall and tour the festive Sanctuary and Parlor. Tickets can be purchased at ipcholidayhouse.com.

IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Enjoy seasonal music with the choir and a guest brass ensemble next Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.

STOCKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOLARS: Sign up to fill a stocking (limit: \$25) at ipc-usa.org/connect. Drop items off at the reception desk by Dec. 12.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Virginia M. Booker. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of 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

Daniel Szasz, Violin

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (*eight forty-five*) Andrew Lindstrom Murphree,

Joseph Elwood Scholl, Lindsey Ryan Scholl

(*eleven o'clock*) Mary Jane Wortham Bussian, Laura Elizabeth Donovan,

Katelyn Noelle Long

Independent Presbyterian Church

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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

OFFICER NOMINEES

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2022, immediately following the 11 o'clock worship service, the following names will be placed in nomination by the Representative Nominating Committee.

Session Nominees (Class of 2025)

John Faught
Ross Forman
Brandon Glass
Jessica Grover
Neal Hutchinson
Kathy Leaver
Teresa Pulliam
Ellen Walker

Youth Elder

Olivia Vanlandingham

Deacon Nominees (Class of 2025)

Sissy Austin
Daniel Beck
Lochrane Chase
William Cook
Chelsea Crenshaw (Class of 2024)
Virginia Grisham
Lene Howell
Drew Brignac
Matthew Moore
Allen Murphree
William Powell, Jr.
Jeanene Skillen
Bannon Thorpe II

Youth Deacon

McClain Robinson

The IPC Foundation Board of Directors (Class of 2025)

Amy McCain
Tom Spencer
Merrill Stewart
Sumner Starling, reappointment

Representative Nominating Committee (Class of 2025)

Robert Pless
Ann Walthall

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Carl Albright III
Houston Cook
Suzanne Graham
Anne Knox Averitt
Paul Simmons
Emily Vanlandingham

President of the Congregation 2023

Barry DeLozier

Vice President of the Congregation 2023 (President Elect)

Caryl Privett