

## SENDING

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

+ *Hymn of Thanksgiving #82: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

+ *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*

Liturgical Resources for Today:  
*Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin*  
*A Brief Statement of Faith - PCUSA*

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:  
Trigger Butler and Catherine Gregory*

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events in the church, please pick up the Life of The Community insert located in your bulletin or visit our website [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org).

## TALK WITH THE PREACHER

David is available for conversations by appointment. Please email [dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org) or call 205-933-3730 to arrange an appointment.

## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

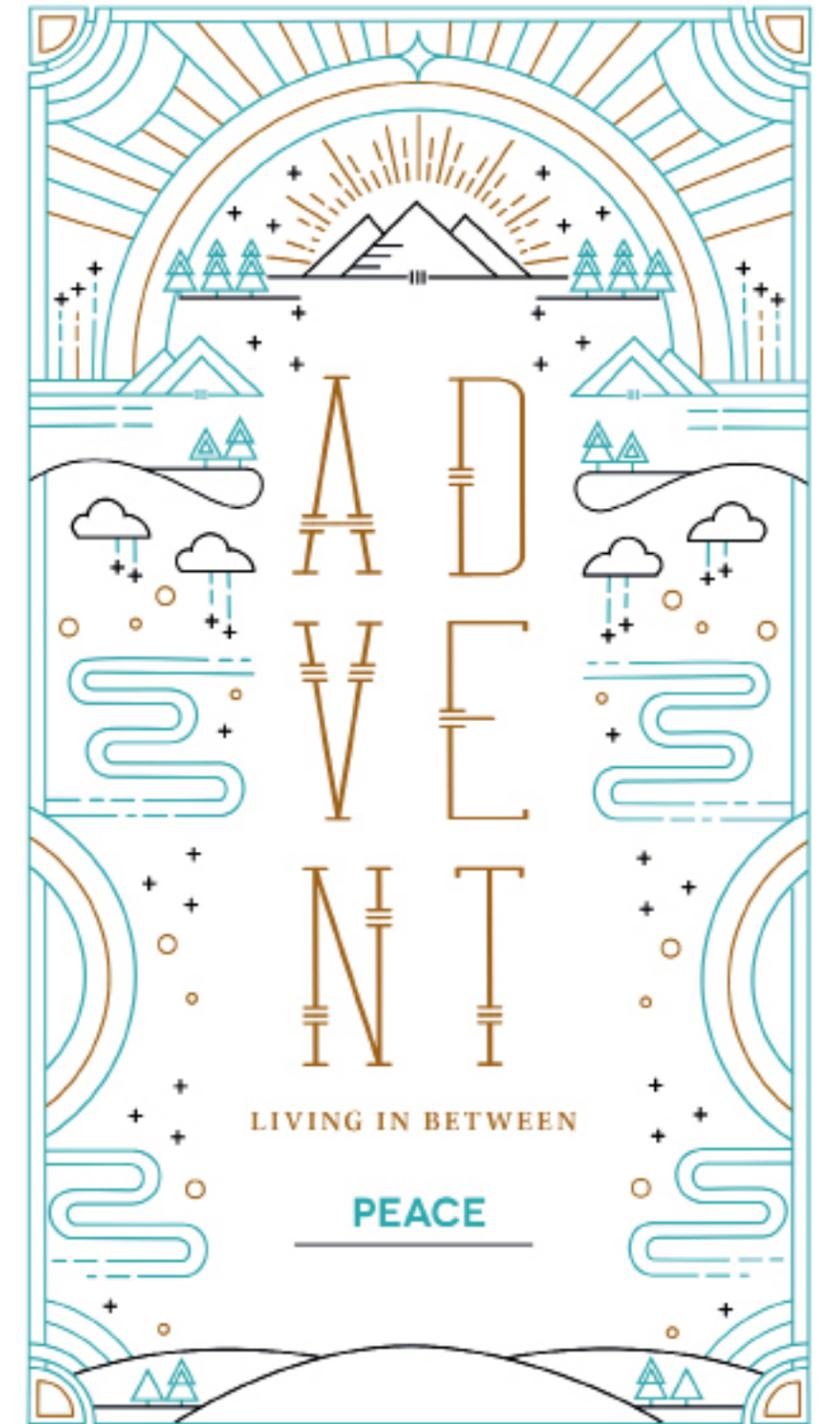
<b>Rev. Patrick Harley</b>	Campus Minister, UKIRK
<b>Rev. Brian Lays</b>	Associate Pastor, Congregational Care
<b>Anderson Gore</b>	Worship Leader
<b>Annie Norris</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>
<b>Charles Gamble</b>	Mandolin
<b>Jeanette Hightower</b>	Violin
<b>Will Hightower</b>	Percussion
<b>Fred Rogan</b>	Steel Guitar
<b>Kevin Peek</b>	Sound
<b>Randy Westbrook</b>	Media



**Independent Presbyterian Church**  
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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 | Phone: 205.933.1830  
[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) | [www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham](https://www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham)  
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

# Evening Worship

## Independent Presbyterian Church



DECEMBER 9, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## WELCOME TO INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WORSHIP is at the center of the life of IPC.  
As you prepare yourself for worship,  
we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

*“Peace does not come rolling in on wheels of inevitability.  
We can’t just wish for peace. We have to will it, fight for it, suffer for  
it, demand it from our governments as if peace were God’s most  
cherished hope for humanity, as indeed it is.”*

– Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin

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### CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

This is the second week in our series entitled, “Living In Between.” Advent is an in-between time of year. It is not just between Thanksgiving and Christmas, though that is when it occurs. Advent is all about what was and what is to be, about what has already happened and what has yet to occur. It’s a time of anticipation, of expectancy. To live the Christian journey with expectancy at a most basic level is to be a resident of two worlds. We live fully in the here and now, with all the joys and sorrows, victories and setbacks of incarnate life. We love, laugh, get tired, make mistakes, hurt, rejoice, and grieve in the journey through this wonderful creation and re-creation given us by God. And we live with anticipation in the life to come, having entered into the near end of the eternal journey through the waters of baptism and belief, faith, and practice. We are in between the coming of Christ and his coming again, living the “now” with hopeful expectancy that empowers us and sustains us.”

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### THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is signified by the color purple representing preparation and repentance. Each week we light a candle in the wreath for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

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### IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

**Complete the Welcome Register** and pass it to the person next to you.

**Join us in the foyer directly after Worship.** Greeters are available who would love to welcome you and answer any questions you might have.

**Visit our website:** [ipc-usa.org/welcome](http://ipc-usa.org/welcome).

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### GATHERING

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

+**Gathering Hymn #475**      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Welcome**

*Please pass the hospitality pads at this time.*

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

One: The days are shorter. The nights are longer.

**All: The sky is grayer. The air is colder.**

One: And our schedules, they seem to get fuller,

**All: As another Christmas approaches and we’re another year older.**

One: We put up the tree and decorate the cookies,

**All: And set out nativities and hang the lights bright.**

One: We pull out the Advent wreath and beautiful poinsettias,

**All: And sing catchy carols on chilly winter nights.**

One: We send Christmas cards and wrap all the gifts,

**All: and retrieve our winter coats from the depth of our closets.**

One: We dust off the Advent hymns, unsung for a year,

**All: and unearth the words of your courageous prophets.**

One: God of surprise, occupy our calendars. Creep into our thoughts.

**All: Break through our mundane to-do lists and tasks.**

One: Grant us your wisdom as we travel this road.

**All: Your light shines in the darkness, illuminating our paths.**

One: Guide us and challenge us, shape us and mold us,

**All: As we wait, anticipate, and joyfully pray.**

One: Offer us your lantern of hope and peace, joy and love,

**All: As we look toward your light, as we prepare the way!**

+**Hymn #88:**      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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### LISTENING

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

**Prayer of Confession (responsive)**

One: God of Peace,

**All: Have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen.**

*Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.*

**Assurance of Grace:**

One: The reign of God has come near! Be filled with hope!

Be filled with peace! Rejoice and believe that you have been made new.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of the Lord Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

+**Gloria Patri**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Sermon:** *The Peace of Advent*

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### RESPONDING

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

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*excerpts from “A Brief Statement of Faith”*

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

- The Offertory Statement
- Anthem: *Advent Hymn*
- Prayer of Dedication

**Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper**

- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People (*by Intinction*)
- Hymn #373: *“O Day of Peace”*:
- *Prayer after Communion*