



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 76, No. 1

January 1, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

ten o'clock

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, we render thanks for the Old Year, we present petitions for the New.
Grant us Thy face uplifted in favor. Give us peace. Help us to hold to the
course one more year. In this new time if we forget all else let us be true
and kind.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "The Holy Boy" John Ireland
*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 - "Draw nigh to God" George Thalben-Ball
Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Seamon

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Minister: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

People: Proclaim God's praise among the nations,

All: Let us worship God!

Isaiah 60

* HYMN 151 - "We Three Kings of Orient Are" KINGS OF ORIENT

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Creative God, You make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are the God of our faith, we come into your presence with praise. Because you are a God of love, we know that you wipe clean our mistakes of the past. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create the possibilities of the future. As we come to enter anew into covenant with you, remove any reluctance or falsehood in us. May all that we say, all that we sing, all that we think and all that we do, bring glory to you. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

KYRIE ELEISON

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

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 (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Matthew 2:1-12 (*Pew Bible*, p. NT2)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 145 - "What Child Is This"GREENSLEEVES

SERMON Rev. Seamon

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED.....Rev. Clayton

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 – "The Journey" Simon Lole
The wise men left their country To journey morn by morn, With gold and frankincense and myrrh, Because the Lord was born, God sent a star to guide them And sent a dream to warn. My life is like their journey, Their star is like God's book, I must be like those good wise men With heav'nward heart and look But shall I give no gifts to God, What precious gifts they took. Lord, I will give my love to Thee, Than gold more costlier, More sweet to Thee than frankincense, More priz'd to Thee than myrrh, Lord, make me dearer day by day, By day holier, Nearer and nearer day by day, 'Til I my voice unite, And sing my "Glory" with angels clad in white, All "Glory, Glory," Through all the angel height!
Christina Rossetti

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:

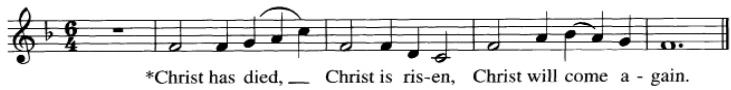
SANCTUS (*All Singing*) arr. Richard Proulx



*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The minister continues in prayer:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (*All Singing*) arr. Richard Proulx



*Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

The minister continues in prayer:

AMEN (*All Singing*) arr. Richard Proulx



*A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*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

"In the Bleak Midwinter"Harold Darke
Janet Ort and Leah Pickett, *Sopranos*

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone. Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain. Heav'n and earth shall flee away, When He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, A stable place suffic'd The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom cherubin Worship night and day, A breast full of milk, And a mangerfull of hay. Enough for Him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore. What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what can I give Him, Give my heart, give, give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

*HYMN 150 - "As with Gladness Men of Old" DIX

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern" ("How lovely shines
the morning star").....Johann Christoph Bach

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship Services. 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 meeting you.

THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Fessenden Morse, 22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry; Civil War: Battles at Cedar Mountain, Antietam, and Chancellorsville (Captain); Battle of Gettysburg (Lieutenant Colonel); Provost Marshal of Atlanta; ancestor of Wayne Morse.

IPC'S CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED all day on Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's Day holiday. Due to a power outage as Alabama Power begins preliminary work for the third phase of IPC's Columbarium project, the church will also be closed Jan. 3-4. Our regular Sunday schedule of morning and evening worship services and Sunday school classes resumes Sunday, Jan. 8. Wednesday night classes and dinner return Jan. 11.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: Since 1923, the Children's Fresh Air Farm has provided an opportunity to experience recreation time outdoors and fellowship with church members and the community. One hundred years later, IPC still welcomes all to the Farm. As we prepare for Farm's Centennial celebration, please join us for a special Sunday School speaker series at 10 am in Highland Hall each week this month starting Sunday, Jan. 8, to learn more about the Farm's history and ongoing mission.

SAVE THE DATE: IPC Global Missions will host Salvador and Irma de la Torre, our mission partners in Chiapas, Mexico, on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Join us for supper and a dynamic program by our 2022 Chiapas Mission Team in the Garage at Highland Hall from 5-7 pm to learn more about current mission work in Chiapas and around the world.

ANNUAL PLEDGING: Thank you to those who have made a new or renewed commitment to IPC's annual stewardship campaign. As we approach the end of our campaign, it's not too late to submit your 2023 pledge. Find pledge cards at the reception desk or make an online pledge by texting YES to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed
Mr. Gregory Roberson, Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir
Acolyte: Lindsey Ryan Scholl

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