

# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2021

eleven o'clock

# Service for the Lord's Day

## The Gathering for Worship

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, Thou art our only guide. Help us to follow Thee with simple trust. Life grows more difficult and more complicated every day. Paths multiply, strange voices invite, darkness threatens, enemies are everywhere. The blithe confidence of youth is gone. Our need of Thee cries aloud in our souls. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - Grave-Adagio from Sonata No. 2 ..... Felix Mendelssohn  
*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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Seamon

INTROIT - "In the beginning was the Word".....George Thalben-Ball  
 In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

**Minister:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

**People:** **For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon us, and his glory will appear over us.**

**All:** **Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.** *Isaiah 60*

### \* HYMN 850 - "In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness" ..DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



1 In a deep, un-bound ed dark - ness, long be - fore the first\_ light shone,  
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant, firm, and sure,  
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your match - less grace,  
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad A - bra - ham;



you, O God, be - yond all mer - it worked a won - der faith\_ makes known:  
 faith - ful to your cov - enant prom - ise. Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure:  
 send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us, Word made flesh in time\_ and space:  
 God of Mir - yam, God of Mo - ses, Fi - ery Pil - lar, great\_ I AM:



in your mer - cy, in your mer - - - cy,  
 sing - ing prais - es, sing - ing prais - - - es,  
 Friend and Sav - ior, Friend and Sav - - - ior,  
 lead us home - ward, lead us home - - - ward,



you em - braced us as your own,  
 long as heart and breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more. —  
 in whose life we glimpse your face,  
 to the love - feast of the Lamb,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison: Lord of Light and God of Glory, you sent Jesus to be for us the light of the world, to reveal your universal love for all, and to enlighten us to become more like him. We confess the darkness of illusion and idolatry we choose instead of the illumination of truth and reality you offer. We give into our prejudices instead of our principles. We open our hearts wide enough to receive only the light of the familiar, yet not enough to be filled with the glory and light of Your liberation. Forgive us for choosing to dwell in a land of deep darkness instead of the light of life in Jesus Christ. Then, strike us with the ray of your grace so that we may become more gracious. In Christ's name. 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.**

\*GLORIA PATRI (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

ANTHEM - "Listen, Sweet Dove" ..... Grayston Ives  
Listen sweet dove unto my song, And spread thy golden wings in me; Hatching my tender heart so long, Till it get wing and flie away with thee. Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow The earth did like a heav'n appear, The starres were coming down to know If they might mend their wages and serve here. The sunne which once did shine alone, Hung down his head and wisht for night, When he beheld twelve sunnes for one Going about the world and giving light. Lord, though we change thou art the same, The same sweet God of love and light: Restore this day for thy great name, Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

*George Herbert*

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Genesis 1:1-5

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

SERMON - LET THERE BE LIGHT.....Dr. Goyer

## The Response to the Word

\* APOSTLES' CREED .....Rev. Seamon  
**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please continue to remember to support the church. Even during this time when in-person attendance is limited, we do have basic necessary bills to cover. Offerings may be submitted online by clicking [here](#), by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts.*

\* The Offertory Statement

\* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....

OLD HUNDREDTH

\* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – "I Bind unto Myself Today" .....

St. Patrick's Breastplate, arr. K. Lee Scott

Janet Ort, *Soprano*

I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three. I bind this day to me forever by pow'r of faith Christ's Incarnation; his baptism in the Jordan river, his death on the cross for my salvation; his bursting from the spiced tomb; his riding up the heav'nly way; his coming at the day of doom: I bind unto myself today. I bind unto myself today the pow'r of God to hold and lead, his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken, to my need; the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward; the word of God to give me speech, his heav'nly host to be my guard. Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me; Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all who love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. I bind unto myself the Name, the strong Name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the One in Three, the Three in One, of whom all nature hath creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word: praise to the Lord of my salvation. Salvation is of Christ the Lord! *St. Patrick and Cecil Frances Alexander*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER.....Rev. Clayton

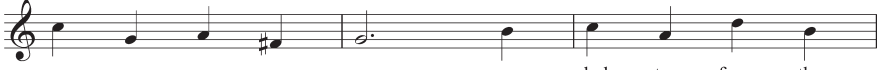
**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

# The Sending

\*HYMN 687 - "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" ..... ST. ANNE



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
3. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are  
4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears  
5. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that  
all our years a - way; they fly for - got - ten,  
hope for years to come, be thou our guard while



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
as a dream dies at the o - pening day.  
life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

\* CHARGE

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE - "Allegro Maestoso" .....Felix Mendelssohn

\**Congregation standing*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S ONLINE VISITORS!

We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please provide contact information to Cindy Shaw at 933-3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org).

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of E.T. and Clara Brown. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in honor of Fendrvik Jefferson Smith, Jr., retired Colonel in the U.S. Air Force; flew in Korea and Vietnam; uncle of Ann Walthall.

IPC DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION for the 2021-2022 school year will be January 11 - 15. Information and the registration online form are available at [ipcdayschool.org](http://ipcdayschool.org).

HONOR REV. LUCY TURNER by donating to a new IPC Foundation fund.

Lucy has dedicated most of her more than 16 years at IPC to caring for our members when they need it the most. In honor of Lucy's retirement, we are establishing a Pastor Care and Counseling Assistance Fund in the IPC Foundation to provide pastoral care and counseling for those in need. To donate, click on the Give link our website [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) and select "Lucy Turner Foundation Fund" from the fund dropdown.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

MAKE YOUR 2021 PLEDGE as our annual Stewardship Campaign comes to a close. Thanks to those who have already pledged, we once again see evidence of an extraordinarily generous and faithful congregation. However, we are now at the point where we can't move forward to finalize plans for the year until we know more about our revenue stream. We plan our spending around gifts and ask each member of our congregation to please take a moment and prayerfully consider how you can continue to help IPC live out its mission—as your gift directly supports the life and ministry. Find a 2021 pledge card online at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) < give online, and Marsha Harbin is available at [mharbin@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mharbin@ipc-usa.org) or 205.933.3715 for any questions or if you need assistance to complete your form.

### SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Margaret Baldwin; Mr. James L. Baggett; Mr. James R. “Bob” Bush; Mr. Coleman P. Gorham; Ms. Bernice T. “Bernie” Halbur; Mr. Ira Harmon; Mr. William R. “Bill” Hersey; Mrs. Doris F. Hudson; Mr. Idus D. Kilpatrick; Mrs. Nellie P. Mason; Mr. Charles M. “Charlie” Miller, Sr.; Mrs. Carolyn A. Spivey; and Mr. Harry J. Wormley. (*Employee Christmas Fund*) In memory of Mr. Charles M. “Charlie” Miller, Sr. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds; Mr. Charles M. “Charlie” Miller, Sr.; Mr. James W. “Jimmy” Shepherd, Sr.; and Mrs. Sue C. White. (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Mr. Coleman P. Gorham; Judge James H. Hancock, Sr.; Mrs. Mary Ann B. McCollum; and Mr. James W. “Jimmy” Shepherd, Sr. In honor of Mr. Charlie Boyle, Mrs. Elizabeth Downs, Reverend Richard B. Hanna, Mr. Will Hunt, and Mrs. Rita Spencer.

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### Participants in Today's Services

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Pastor  
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor of Adult & Comm. Ministries  
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation  
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts  
Members of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)