

# THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church

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NOVEMBER 22, 2020  
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

# 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:

*"The liturgical year is an adventure in bringing the Christian life to fullness, the heart to alert, the soul to focus."*

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## CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

Welcome to Independent Presbyterian Church and this service of Christ the King Lessons and Carols - A festival of Scripture and Song for the Last Sunday of the Christian Year based upon the life of Christ and the liturgical calendar.

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. Today is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the Christian year. Christ the King is signified by the colors white and gold, in keeping with other joyous feasts honoring Christ.

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## IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

**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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Who are you?

**All: I am a child of God.**

One: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

**All: Let us, God's children, answer God's call.**

One: Let us worship God, our Creator and Savior.

### OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray

**All: God of majesty, you love us more than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ you reconciled the whole world to you and claim us as your own, so that we may live as Christ's body on earth. We give you thanks for the lives we have been given. We pray in your holy name, great Trinity of Love. Amen.**

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## ADVENT

*Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: preparation to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, to receive faithfully the risen Christ who comes to us in Word and Spirit, and to await with hope Christ's coming in final victory.*

*The word Advent comes from the Latin adventus, which means "coming."*

*Dates of the Season: Advent is the four weeks, including the four Sundays, before Christmas Day.*

*Colors for the Season: The color is purple, which symbolizes both penitence and royalty.*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her

### HYMN #88: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

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## CHRISTMAS SEASON

*Christmas Season is the time of celebration, thanksgiving, and praise for God present with us in Jesus Christ. Christmas Day was first celebrated on December 25 in Rome sometime between 336 and 354 C.E. A pagan winter solstice festival, the birthday of the unconquered sun, was already celebrated on December 25. Christians adopted that date to celebrate the birth of the Son of God. Christians have often adapted and transformed the customs of the world around them."*

*Dates of the Season: Christmas Season begins with Christmas Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany, January 6.*

*Colors for the Season: White and gold*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### HYMN #134: "Joy to the World" (Stanza 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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## EPIPHANY

*The word Epiphany is from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means "manifestation." On the Day of Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus being revealed to the world and the visit of the wise men, the first gentiles to whom he was made known. Scripture doesn't say how many wise men came to Bethlehem. At various times tradition has set the number from two to twelve. However, because three gifts are mentioned, we usually think of three wise men or Magi.*

*Celebration of Epiphany: Epiphany falls on January 6. Churches may celebrate on the Sunday before or after.  
Colors for the Season: White and gold*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12

**I**n the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road..

**HYMN #145:** "What Child is This" (Stanza 1)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

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## LENT

*Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon "lencten," which means "spring," the time of the lengthening of days. At first Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism on Easter Eve. Eventually, Lent became a time of reflection and self-examination for all Christians.*

*Days of Lent: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent lasts forty days, not counting Sundays. Sundays aren't counted because Sunday always celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death.*

*Colors for the Season: Purple, a royal color that also signifies penitence and preparation*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Mark 8:34-37

**H**e called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

**HYMN #223:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Stanza 1)

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

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## GOOD FRIDAY

*In Old English usage good meant "of God." Good Friday is God's Friday: Jesus' death shows God's salvation.  
The Date of Good Friday: Good Friday is the Friday before Easter.  
Colors for Good Friday: The worship space is either void of decoration and color, or black is used.*

### RECONCILIATION:

One: With sincere and repentant hearts, let us name our sins against God and one another.  
Join me as we pray in silence.

*silence for individual prayer and meditation*

One: Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

One: This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion. God remembers us – and redeems us!

**All: God prepares the way for us – the way to grace, to hope, to new life. Joyfully, we offer our thanks to God. Amen**

### SINGING WITH THANKSGIVING: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (stanza 4)

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

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## EASTER SEASON

*The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. At this season we celebrate with joy Christ's resurrection and ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).*

*Date of Easter: Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or next after March 21, the spring equinox. Easter can be any time from March 22 through April 25. The date may differ in Orthodox Churches.*

*Colors of the Easter Season: White and gold*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 24:1-9

**B**ut on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

### HYMN #232: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" (Stanza 1 & 2)

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

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## PENTECOST

*Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter, comes from the Greek word for fiftieth, pentekoste. Greek-speaking Jews called the Jewish Feast of Weeks the Day of Pentecost. Acts tells how the anxious and fearful disciples, who had gathered on the Day of Pentecost, were filled with the Holy Spirit and thereafter preached boldly the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*Date of Pentecost: The fiftieth day after Easter.*

*Colors for Pentecost: Red, the color of fire, represents the Holy Spirit.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Acts 2:1-4, 41-43

**W**hen the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

**HYMN #288:** "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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## ORDINARY TIME

*The Season of Pentecost, called Ordinary Time, is a period of growth. Churches emphasize Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God. They engage issues of daily life and concerns of the community, nation, and world.*

*Dates of the Season: From the day after Pentecost through the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent.*

*Colors for the Season: The basic color is green symbolizing growth in Christ. White is used on Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day, and Christ the King Sunday.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Matthew 28:16-20

**N**ow the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**HYMN #610:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Stanza 1)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace

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## CHRIST THE KING

*This last Sunday of the Christian Year celebrates the coming reign of Jesus Christ.*

*Date of the Season: The Sunday before the Season of Advent begins, and the last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost.*

*Colors for the Season: Gold and white.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Psalm 100

**M**ake a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**HYMN #373: "O Day of Peace"**

O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- Invitation to the Table
- Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People (by Intinction)
- Music: "Come to Me"
- Prayer after Communion

**HYMN #82: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

**+BENEDICTION**

**+POSTLUDE**

*+Rise in Body or Spirit*

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## 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).

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## 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.

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## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

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## MUSICIANS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

**Sarah Mason**

Artist in Residence

**Billy Gant**

Guitar/Vocals

**Beth Middleton**

Vocals

**Fred Rogan**

Steel Guitar



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### Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205

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