



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 74, No. 49

December 5, 2021

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, art Thou ever far from me? My face is oftentimes turned away from Thee, but Thou art always waiting for me to turn again. I wander into far places, but Thou art there before, by my side, begging entrance into my sad heart.
from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Savior of the Nations, Come"Johann Sebastian Bach
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 - "O praise God in his holiness"George Thalben-Ball
O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
(eight forty-five) Preston Miller, Caitlin Murphree Miller,
Edward "Teddy" Miller, and Henry Miller
(eleven o'clock) J., Sarah, Will, Charlie, and C. J. Long

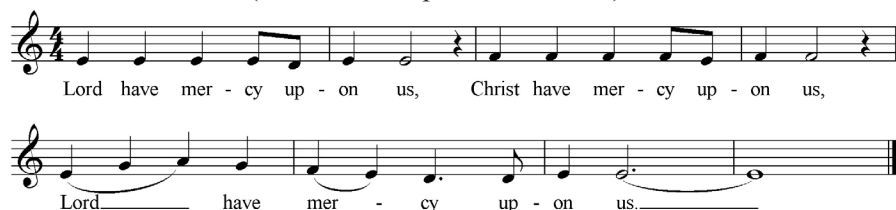
* HYMN 82 - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....Mr. Tyler

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.

A period of silence for personal confession.

* KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service*)



* 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

MOMENT FOR MISSION Elizabeth Miles

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Luke 1:26-38

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 99 - "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"..... MORNING SONG

During the singing of this hymn, children, kindergarten and younger, may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for worship care.

SERMON - HOW CAN THIS BE?.....Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED.....Mr. Tyler

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 – “He Comes to Us as One Unknown”
arr. Paul Nicholson

He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard; as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown, a pulse of being stirred. He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart; half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky of night within the heart. He comes in sound of seas, the ocean's foam; yet small, still upon the breeze, a wind stirs the tops of trees, a voice to call us home. He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth; to bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving name, for ev'ry child of earth. He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored; the Christ in all the Scriptures shown as yet unseen but not unknown, our Savior and our Lord. *Timothy Dudley-Smith*

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.

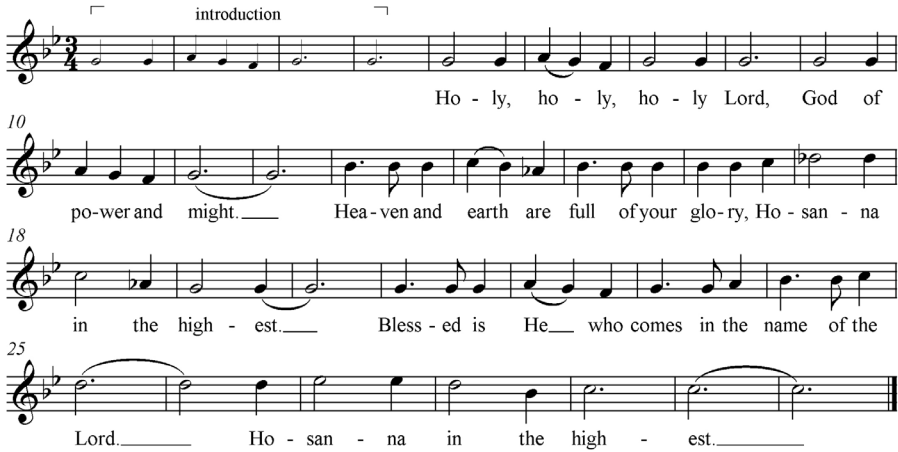
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

"Motet for the Annunciation".....Frank Ferko
Today is the fountainhead of our salvation, and the revelation of an eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces this grace: Therefore let us exclaim with him to the Mother of God, Rejoice, O Woman full of grace, the Lord is with you! *Troparion of the Feast of the Annunciation*

"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 102 - "Savior of the Nations, Come"
NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying".....Paul Manz

**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 FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hershel Johnson, Navy Signalman on the Enterprise in WWII; father of Phillip A. Johnson, Sr., grandfather of Alicia Johnson Coomes and Phillip A. Johnson, Jr.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, December 12, 2021, 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 1) To elect Elders for the class of 2024, 2) To elect Deacons for the class of 2024, 3) To elect a Youth Elder and Youth Deacon, 4) To elect a President and Vice President of the Congregation, 5) To elect members of the IPC Foundation Board of Directors, and 6) To elect members of the Representative Nominating Committee for the class of 2024. No other business may be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session, Kevin J. Long, Moderator; Beverley T. Krannich, Clerk.

IN THE PARLOR: Purchase Holiday House tickets, Giving Tree gifts, and Youth Christmas ornaments after both worship services today. For Holiday House, the Tea is IN-PERSON on Saturday, December 11, 10am - 4pm. The tour will be VIRTUAL. Visit ipcholidayhouse.com for more. Giving Tree accepts a \$5-10+ donation to help our neighbors who are struggling with food, shelter, utilities, transportation, and medical needs. Cards will be provided for you to present to your gift recipient(s). Christmas ornament proceeds benefit the Youth program.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Gather today at 10 am in the Assembly Room at Highland Hall for Jeff Leonard's Christmas program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR: All K-6th children may rehearse every 11 am Sunday worship service for the Noon Nativity Service on December 24th. Children follow the acolyte down the aisle during the anthem, and parents pick up in the Day School Music Room at the end of the service. Contact Beth Middleton at bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org.

THE ANNUAL IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be Sunday, December 12, at 4:00 p.m. The choir and orchestra will perform beloved works including Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

STOCKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOLARS: Provide Christmas stockings for graduates of the Children's Fresh Air Farm's Summer Learning Program and Lift Off. Stocking stuffers are needed based on age and gender, and you can select one or more students (or their siblings). Stuffers must be dropped off at the church by Sunday, December 12. Sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect.

IPC CONNECT(ING) TO BEER AND CAROLS: Join us on Monday, Dec. 20, 6 – 9 pm at Iron City Grill for IPC Connect's Christmas Party with Beer & Carols. Children's Christmas songs begin at 6:30 pm and Christmas carols at 7 pm. Dress children in Christmas pajamas!

2022 ANNUAL GIVING: Thanks so much to all who have already pledged. The response so far is very promising for the life and mission of IPC and its members. For those who have not yet pledged, we hope that you will prayerfully consider doing so and becoming a part of the exciting things that God is doing at IPC. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the stewardship team or members of the clergy if you want to discuss.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

NOVEMBER ORGAN RECITAL SERIES FUND: In honor of Dr. Jeff McLelland.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed
Mr. JD Tyler, Director of Youth Faith Formation
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir
Acolytes: (*eight forty-five*) William Bibb Albright, Calliope Lane Hontzas,
Olivia Vanlandingham
(*eleven o'clock*) John Samuel Meriwether IV, Richard Monk IV,
Magdalene Elise Robinson

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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