

# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020

eleven o'clock

# Service for the Lord's Day

## The Gathering for Worship

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We, unaccustomed to courage, exiles from delight, live coiled in shells of loneliness until love leaves its high holy temple and comes into our sight to liberate us into life. Love arrives and in its train come ecstasies, old memories of pleasure, ancient histories of pain. Yet if we are bold, love strikes away the chains of fear from our souls. We are weaned from our timidity In the flush of love's light we dare be brave And suddenly we see that love costs all we are and will ever be. Yet it is only love which sets us free. *from Touched by an Angel by Maya Angelou*

PRELUDE - "In the Bleak Midwinter" ..... arr. Allen Orton Gibbs  
*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 Bleak Midwinter".....CRANHAM

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.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise God from the heavens.**

Minister: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**People: Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.**

**All: Alleluia!** *Psalm 148*

\*HYMN 143 - "Angels, from the Realms of Glory".....REGENT SQUARE



1 An - gels' from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,  
 all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing  
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: come and wor - ship,  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
 you have seen his na - tal star:  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:  
 come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION ..... Dr. Wilkins

**Unison: Lord Jesus Christ, you have been born again into our world, and yet we do not know peace. Lord Jesus Christ, you have been born again into our world, and yet pain abounds. Lord Jesus Christ, you have been born again into our world, and yet there are those with no hope. We know that you have promised abundant life, healing, and hope, and yet we don't trust the promise— the true and fully reliable promise— that you have come among us, with healing in your wings. Forgive our failure to trust your way, your truth, your life, this day. Make us radiant in our gratitude for the gift of Jesus. And renew our hope that it would sustain our faith in you, O Christ, in 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.**

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

ANTHEM - "Torches" ..... John Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches All the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping; Come and sing your song to him! Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby, Ah, Roro, my love, Roro; Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, While we sing you our Roro. Sing, my friends, and make you merry, Joy and mirth and joy again; Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, Now and evermore. Amen.

*from the Galician, trans. by J.B. Trend*

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Luke 2:22-40

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

\*HYMN 114 - "Away in a Manger" ..... CRADLE SONG

SERMON.....Rev. Seamon

The Response to the Word

\* APOSTLES' CREED ..... Dr. Wilkins

**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 – "What Is This Lovely Fragrance?" .....

Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!  
 Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, Hear you not heav'nly caroling?  
 What is this light so fair, so tender Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes? Never  
 the Morning Star so radiant Followed his course o'er eastern skies. Shepherds,  
 O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Savior, born today. Low at His feet we  
 lay our treasure, Heart's adoration, love for aye.

*from the French, trans. by Ysobel*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 113 - "Angels We Have Heard on High" ..... GLORIA

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beh - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - ia in ex - cel - sis De - o!

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE - "Paean on Joy to the World" .....David Lasky

\*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 Mr. and Mrs. Euell E. McCoy (Evelyn Glass). THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lewis R. Timberlake, U.S. Navel Air Corps LTJG, Lieutenant Junior Grade; who received 14 decorations including the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, The President's Citation, and the Philippines Liberation Medal; father of Don Timberlake.

FIND VIDEO REPLAYS OF IPC'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Search for @ IPCBirmingham on YouTube and Facebook to access our recent virtual services including Christmas Eve, Children's Nativity, The Longest Night, Christmas Concert, Storyteller Dolores Hydock and other past sermons.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

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).

HOLIDAY HOUSE TICKETS are still available. Celebrate the season with us by virtually touring four beautifully decorated homes for Christmas. All proceeds benefit ministries supporting Birmingham women and children. Purchase a ticket today at [ipcholidayhouse.com](http://ipcholidayhouse.com), and a link to a private tour will be immediately emailed to you. Enjoy now through December 31.

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.

### SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

AFRICA MISSION FUND: In memory of Fred K. Medley.

IPC FOUNDATION: In memory of Elizabeth Beddow DeBardeleben, Thomas Chambers Joyce, Thomas Blankenship Maddox Pankey, Lettie Lane Hurlbert North, and James Wylie Shepherd. In honor of Helen G. Yarboro and Mr. & Mrs. John L. Feagin, Jr.

IPC SPECIAL GIFTS: In memory of Marvin List Underwood, Jr., and Joan Coppingner Wettermark.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Edith G. Bauman, Mr. George E. Oliver, and Mrs. Joan Marie Pate. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds; Mr. James W. "Jimmy" Shepherd, Sr.; and Mrs. Sue C. White. (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Judge James H. Hancock, Sr., and Mr. James W. "Jimmy" Shepherd, Sr.

STAIR: In memory of Ton Pieter DeVos and Lettie Lane Hurlbert North.

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### Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation  
The Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkins, Interim Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care  
Mr. Gregory Roberson, Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir  
Members of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Pastor  
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*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
**[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)**