

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Make it all new to us, O Lord, all new and fresh and sweet and wonderful. Show us the star again and the Wise Men and the shepherds on the hill. Part the veil of the sky for us and let us hear the song of the angels once more. Bring us from all our wanderings to kneel in simplicity and trust before the newborn King. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE

"Prelude in G" Felix Mendelssohn
"Andante" from *Concerto in E-flat* Joseph Haydn
Kris Lindley, Trumpet

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 CONDITE ALME SIDERUM

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

(8:45 am) Ginny and Neal Hutchinson
(11:00 am) Kent, Anna, Owen, and Emmett Hartzog

*HYMN 93 TRURO

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION..... Rev. Clayton

Unison: Gracious God, who loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, we are humbled by this greatest of your mercies. Forgive us for not knowing what to do with so extravagant a gift. Forgive us for rushing by the manger too quickly to bow and worship. Bring us all to our knees in the presence of your Son, that we may be lifted to our salvation. In his name we pray. 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

**Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: 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 (HYMN 581) GREATOR EX

“Glory Be to the Father”

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Long

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION.....Rev. Clayton

SCRIPTURE LESSON - John 3:11-18 (Pew Bible, p. NT71)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

During the singing of this ANTHEM, (8:45 a.m.) the acolyte will lead children kindergarten and younger to G20 for childcare; (11:00 am) children ages four and younger will follow the acolyte to G20 for childcare, and children kindergarten to sixth grade will follow Miss Beth to Room 113 for Nativity Choir rehearsal.

ANTHEM..... G. F. Handel

“And the Glory of the Lord” from *The Messiah*”

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. *Isaiah 40:5*

SERMON.....Rev. Long

“Gifts of the Christ Child: Eternal Life”

The Response to the Word

*HYMN 353 SOLID ROCK

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 am)

Will Bellande

Abby Driggers

Elizabeth and Wayne Hester

Rebecca Parsons

Katherine Shepherd

*APOSTLES' CREED

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 OFFERINGSRev. Newton

To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.

* The Offertory Statement

* The Doxology (*HYMN 606*) OLD HUNDREDTH
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem Will Todd
"My Lord Has Come"

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

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 366 HYFRYDOL
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE J. S. Bach
"In Dulci Jubilo"

*CONGREGATION STANDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! Please join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor immediately following the service where we can tell you more about our church. We look forward to meeting you! For more information, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God in memory of Carleton Benners Parnell. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aubrey Chapman Feagin, U.S. Airforce stateside; father of Donald Feagin.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SING: All are invited to join us this morning in the Great Hall at 10:00 am!

IN THE PARLOR THIS MORNING, find gift ideas that support IPC's mission and ministry. Purchase Giving Tree cards from Community Ministries and the Children's Fresh Air Farm or bring home a wrapped cookbook from Youth Ministries.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: Today all college students returning home for the holidays are invited to brunch at Rojo following the 11 am service. Additionally, registration is open for Montreat College Conference to be held January 2-5. For more information, contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org.

TABLE WORSHIP SERVICE: Join us tonight at 5:00 p.m. for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the Table Worship service. Enjoy an evening filled with contemporary Christmas music, beloved hymns, and meaningful readings. The candlelit worship service will take place in Highland Hall decked for the Christmas season. A dessert reception will follow.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE: On December 24, all are welcome to attend our Family Nativity Service with the Children's Nativity Choir at 11:00 am. At 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., we will hold our traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. All three services are in the sanctuary, and childcare is available.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: IPC will be closed on December 25 and January 1. The church will be open from 8:30 am to 1:00 p.m. on December 24, 26-27, and 30-31.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE: On Sunday, December 29, we will observe our Holiday Worship Schedule and gather for one morning worship service in the sanctuary at 10 am. There will be no Sunday school and no Table worship service that day.

IPC YOUTH: It's time to register for our Gatlinburg trip from January 17 to January 20. Youth 7th-12th grade are welcome. Find additional information and registration online or in the youth email!

SAVE THE DATE: Biblical Explorations with Rev. Susan Clayton and Dr. Jeff Leonard are thrilled to announce a nine-day trip to Rome and Assisi next summer traveling May 31 - June 8, 2025. Let us know if you are interested! Find our interest form at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

2025 ANNUAL GIVING: We are so grateful for those who have given generously to support the mission of Jesus Christ at IPC. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, the time is now to join us in responding to Christ's call for our church. Find pledge cards at the reception desk, or make an online pledge by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: In memory of (*Chapel Fund*) Mrs. Lisa Kidd Hanna and Mrs. Margaret "Peggy" Sington. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds and Mr. Bernis C. "Butch" Howard, Jr. (*Patio Fund*) In memory of Mr. Bernis C. "Butch" Howard, Jr. (*Tate Family Trails*) In memory of Mrs. Lisa Kidd Hanna.

FOOD PANTRY: In memory of Pat O'Donnell, Anne Hauck, and Matthew Ferriter.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: In honor of Paula P. Crockard. In memory of Blaine Jr. and Annette Brownell.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor

The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts

Advent Wreath: (8:45 am) The Hutchinson Family

(11:00 am) The Hartzog Family

Acolytes: (8:45 am) Braylon Cooley, Andrew Grover, Walt Grover

(11:00 am) Mary Hanson Borders, Spencer Cobbs, Katelyn Long

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Independent Presbyterian Church

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Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

Phone: (205) 933-1830; Fax: (205) 933-1836

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

www.ipc-usa.org