



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 77, No. 48

December 1, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

10:00 am

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Thank Thee, O God, for Thy purpose of health. May my spirit be at rest and the contagion of it sweep through mind and body. Send Thy light along my life and may all of me reflect the wholeness that is in Thee. In the name of Him Who taught me and showed me how to be well. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE J. S. Bach

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

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 CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Austin, Anne Knox, Brooks, Edward, and Henry Averitt

*HYMN 88..... VENI EMMANUEL

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*versus 1-4*)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Mrs. Kathy Leaver

Unison: Emmanuel, you love us, but we do not love you fully. You call, but we do not listen. In these hectic days we easily become wrapped in our own concerns. We rush by those in need, and miss the sounds of heaven rejoicing. We are lost in a fever of busyness that has separated us from you. Confront us with our sin, that we may repent and receive the forgiveness that carries us home to you. In your name we pray. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

* KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service* by Jeff McLelland)

Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,
 Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

* DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe 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 (from *The Independent Service*)

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi-rit:
 6 As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and will be for
 9 ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Long
 SPECIAL RECOGNITION - The Retirement of Vanessa Woods

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Mrs. Kathy Leaver

SCRIPTURE LESSON - John 5:1-9 (Pew Bible, p.NT96)

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

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

* HYMN 796 LAND OF REST
 "We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

SERMON Rev. Long
 "Gifts of the Christ Child: Healing"

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED.....Rev. Seamon

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

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 *Joel Martinson*
"Pervasive, Never-absent One"

Pervasive, never-absent One, whose name is Mystery, whose close companionship we sense, whose face we yearn to see: come to those who seek you, who long for the sound of your voice. Hov'ring elusive One, come! Indwelling, ever-present One, whose nearness we have known, whose hand has soothed us in distress, whose love precedes our own: come to those who seek you, who long for the sound of your voice. Immanent advent One, come! Unfettered Spirit, living One, whose gifts are freely sown, whose breath and grace abide in us, in flesh and blood and bone: come to those who seek you, who long for the sound of your voice. Future-transforming One, come!

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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 (*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

“E’en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz
 Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in Heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

“Ave Verum Corpus” W. A. Mozart
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine, cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

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 sweet foretaste in the trial of death.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

*HYMN 106 BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

*BENEDICTION Rev. Long

*POSTLUDE Louis-Claude Daquin
"Noël Suisse"

*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 on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lewis R. Timberlake, U.S. Naval Air Corps, Lieutenant Junior Grade; 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.

TABLE WORSHIP SERVICE MOVES BACK TO 5 PM: At the November meeting, Session voted to move the Table worship service back to 5 pm beginning December 8. For the last three Sundays of Advent, each of the three associate pastors will preach in person on one Sunday, followed by a rotating schedule of pastors when the service resumes in January. We hope you will join us in Highland Hall for evening worship during the Advent season!

IN THE PARLOR THIS MORNING, find gift ideas that support IPC's mission and ministry. Purchase Giving Tree cards from Community Ministries and Social Services, bring home a wrapped cookbook from Youth Ministries, or gift a choir CD or stained glass roundel from the Choir.

ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS CITRUS FRUIT will be accepted through today, December 1. All proceeds support the IPC Choir. Fruit order forms are available around the church and from any choir member. You may order online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

CHAMBER CONCERT: MUSIC4ROMANIA cordially invites you to an eclectic evening of music and poetry that honors the profound impact of music, love, and faith in our lives; uplifting us and uniting us. Join us at the Chamber Concert: Music for Romania, taking place this evening at 7:00 pm in the Great Hall.

WEDNESDAY CHAPEL & LUNCH begins December 4. Throughout the Advent Season, join us each Wednesday for a noonday Chapel Service followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Register for lunch online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page by noon on the previous Tuesday.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP is on Saturday, December 7, in Highland Hall. Come and go from 9 am to 12 pm. Christmas PJs are encouraged while we enjoy snacks, fellowship, Advent crafts and more! Volunteers are needed.

THE ANNUAL IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m. The program will include the “Christmas Oratorio” by Camille Saint-Saëns, and other beautiful choral and orchestral music by John Tavener, Jonathan Dove, and Ottavio Respighi. Invite your friends to this beautiful afternoon of music for the season.

ADVENT FLOWERS: Honor and remember loved ones with an Advent flower donation. Your gift provides fresh flowers in the church during the Advent and Christmas Season. Find envelopes at the receptionist desk or use our online donation form. The deadline for submission is Thursday, December 9.

75TH ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR & TEA: Join us Saturday, December 14, to celebrate our milestone Holiday House anniversary with home tours plus an additional option for a seated Afternoon Tea. Tickets are available in the Parlor today; visit ipcholidayhouse.com to learn more.

CELEBRATING VANESSA WOODS

With heartfelt gratitude, we honor Vanessa Woods, our lead housekeeper and a truly remarkable member of IPC’s staff. She retired in November leaving behind a legacy of service and commitment that has impacted many.

This morning, we recognize Vanessa’s 43 years of unwavering dedication.

Throughout her more than four decades at IPC, Vanessa’s tireless efforts ensured that our church was always welcoming and impeccably maintained.

Please join us after this morning’s worship service for a reception in her honor to celebrate her remarkable commitment.

Financial gifts for Vanessa can be made at ipc-usa.org or through Venmo by using “Vanessa” in the comments. Additionally, cash or checks will be accepted at IPC in person or by mail (Attn: IPC Finance Office, 3100 Highland Avenue S., Birmingham, AL 35205).

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor

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

Elder: Mrs. Kathy Leaver

Advent Wreath Lighting: Averitt Family

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolyte: Gavin Vanlandingham

Independent Presbyterian Church

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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