



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

This morning's text is the beginning of the end of Abraham's story. In Genesis 23 we will see him bury Sarah; in the next chapter, he will secure a bride for his son; and in Genesis 25, he will die. At some level, we may wonder what God has for us in a text that, on the surface, focuses on negotiations for a grave plot. What I hope we will find in Genesis 23 is strong confidence for our hearts: that our graves are actually stakes in the Promised Land, the new heavens and new earth in the resurrection.

And this happens for us through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. That is why he is a precious Savior to us and why we come to worship the Triune God this morning. We are called to worship through Psalm 108 — our hearts are made steadfast even to our dying day, because we have known the steadfast love of God in and through Jesus Christ! Our corporate confession of sin comes from *The Valley of Vision*. As we confess our sin, we take our hearts to the only one who can help us. We ask our powerful Lord to cleanse us, to conquer sin in us, and to save us even as we look to him and his glory. And as we confess our sin, we hear the assurance: he loves us, he never has stopped loving us, and his love for us took on flesh and action in Jesus!

And God shows us his great love by assuring us that he will raise us from the dead — with all the saints, who are even now resting in their graves, we will join in praising and glorifying our great God and Savior! May God grant you a foretaste of such worship this day!

WELCOME TO INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

If you are a visitor, thank you for joining us. Please be sure to stop by our Visitor Welcome Center in the Rotunda, where we will have a gift for you. Any questions about our church? We encourage you to ask an usher or one of our greeters. Please see an usher if you need a hearing amplification device. We livestream our 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services at ipcmemphis.org. Please note: the link will be active only on Sunday morning. In addition, audio recordings of this morning's sermon are available the following week on our website. More opportunities for teaching can be found on our YouTube channel. Go to YouTube, and search for Independent Presbyterian Church Memphis.

As you enter the Sanctuary, please silence your mobile devices.

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR COFFEE OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF NOVEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound"
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

arr. Phillips

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 108

The Minister: My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!

The Congregation: Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

The Minister: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

All: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend Parker Tenent, Assistant Pastor (8:30 a.m.)

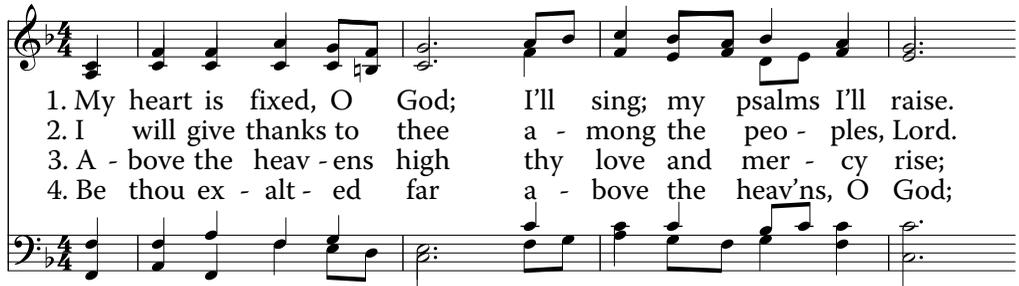
The Reverend Brad Robson, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

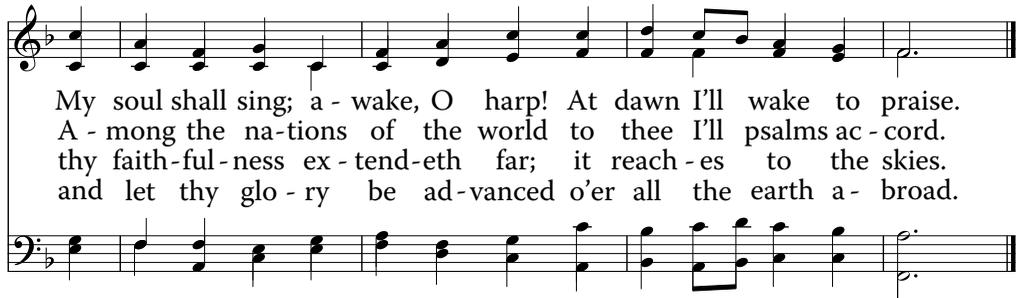
“My Heart Is Fixed, O God”

Psalms 108

St. Thomas



1. My heart is fixed, O God; I'll sing; my psalms I'll raise.
2. I will give thanks to thee a - mong the peo - ples, Lord.
3. A - bove the heav - ens high thy love and mer - cy rise;
4. Be thou ex - alt - ed far a - bove the heav'ns, O God;



My soul shall sing; a - wake, O harp! At dawn I'll wake to praise.
A - mong the na-tions of the world to thee I'll psalms ac - cord.
thy faith-ful-ness ex - tend-eth far; it reach - es to the skies.
and let thy glo - ry be ad - vanced o'er all the earth a - broad.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Crusader's Hymn

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,

Son of God and Son of Man! Thee will I cher - ish,
robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains two verses of the first line. The second system contains the second line of the hymn. The third system contains the third line of the hymn. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with many chords and some melodic lines.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Margaret Ann Browning (11:00 a.m.)

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Father and Creator, may your Spirit speak in me that I may speak to you. I am undeserving, but I look to your tender mercy. I am full of infirmities, wants, sins; you are full of grace. I confess my sin, my frequent sin, my willful sin; all my powers of body and soul are defiled: a fountain of pollution is deep within my nature. Help me in all my doings to put down sin and to humble pride. Save me from the love of the world and the pride of life, from everything that is natural to fallen man. Enable me to never lose sight of the glory of Christ. *Amen.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” — *1 John 4:9-10*

THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“The Sands of Time Are Sinking”

James Brown, Guitar *Tim Keith, Bass*

Anne R. Cousin, 1857

Music: Philip Palmertree



1. The sands of time are sink - ing, the
2. O Christ, he is the foun - tain, the
3. The bride eyes not her gar - ment, but
4. O I am my be - lov - ed's, and



dawn of heav - en breaks, the sum - mer
deep, sweet well of love. The streams on
her dear bride - groom's face. I will not
my be - loved is mine! He brings a



morn I've sighed for, the fair, sweet morn a - wakes.
earth I've tast - ed more deep I'll drink a - bove.
gaze at glo - ry, but on my King of Grace.
poor, vile sin - ner in - to his house of wine.



Dark, dark had been the mid - night, but
There to an o - cean full - ness his
Not at the crown he giv - eth, but
I stand up - on his mer - it, I



day - spring is at hand. And glo - ry,
mer - cy doth ex - pand. And glo - ry,
on his pierc - ed hand. The Lamb is
know no oth - er stand. Not e'en where



glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
all the glo - ry of Em - man - uel's land.
glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 47

The Minister: What does the first petition mean?

The Congregation: "Hallowed be your name" means: Help us to truly know you, to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. And it means, Help us to direct all our living — what we think, say, and do — so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

THE ANTHEM

"Ride On, King Jesus"

Helvey

Harrison Howle, Director

Ride on, King Jesus; no man can a-hinder me.
He is King of kings, he is Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, the First and Last;
No man a-works like him.

King Jesus rides a milk-white horse;
The river of Jordan He did cross;
No man a-works like him.

King Jesus rides in the middle of the air;
He calls the saints from ev'rywhere.
No man a-works like him.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 23:1-20

¹Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ²And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ³And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, ⁴“I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” ⁵The Hittites answered Abraham, ⁶“Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.” ⁷Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

¹⁰Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, ¹¹“No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.” ¹²Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ¹³And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” ¹⁴Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵“My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” ¹⁶Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

¹⁷So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over ¹⁸to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

“Stakes in the Promised Land”

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. Sarah's grave
 - A. Buying

- B. Burying

2. Jesus' grave

3. Our grave

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“For All the Saints”

No. 358

William Walsham How, 1864

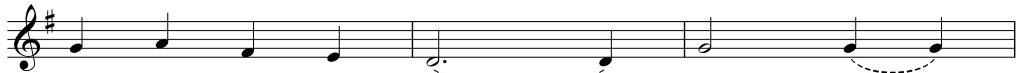
Sine Nomine



1. For all the Saints who from their la - bors
 2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their
 3. *O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and*
 4. The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the
 5. *But lo! There breaks a yet more glo - rious*
 6. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest



rest, who thee by faith be -
 might; thou, Lord, their Cap - tain
bold, fight as the saints who
 west; soon, soon to faith - ful
day; the saints tri - um - phant
 coast through gates of pearl streams



fore the world con - fessed, thy name, O
 in the well - fought fight; thou, in the
no - bly fought of old, and win with
 war - riors comes their rest; sweet is the
rise in bright ar - ray; the King of
 in the count - less host, sing - ing to



Je - sus be for - ev - er blest. Al -
 dark - ness drear, their one true light.
them the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 calm of par - a - dise the blest.
glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Crusader's Hymn

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

THE POSTLUDE

“When We’ve Been There Ten Thousand Years”

Phillips



IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God

in loving memory of Gregory Scott Driver by Mrs. Jody Driver, Gregory Driver, Jr.,
and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pagni. Mrs. Pagni is the former Miss Lindsey Driver.

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BIRTH

Congratulations to

Allie and Preston Battle and grandparents Sam and Matt Olson
on the birth of Walter "Walt" Preston Battle V, on November 9.

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DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to

Julie and Rob Hussey on the death of her father,
Ray U. Tanner, on November 10.

We extend our sympathy to

Elaine and Tom Pacello on the death of their son,
Tommy Pacello, Jr., on November 16.

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Registration is required for Sunday School. Registration links will be open each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. for the following week's classes, and will close at noon each Saturday.

For more details, visit ipcmemphis.org.

College | Zach Hood | Room 131

Young Adults | Robert Browning | Room 222/220

Mid 30s-40s | Parker Tenent | Fellowship Hall South

Mid 40s-50s | Jeremy Jones | Fellowship Hall North

Mid 50s-60s | Ed Norton | Chapel

Line by Line Class | Rankin Fowlkes | Room 132

Westminster Class | Jurey Howard and Ray Wilson | Room 233

60s+ | Mike Malone | Room 237

CHILDREN'S AND NURSERY MINISTRY

Sunday School and Nursery

Kindergarten through 5th grade Sunday school classes are now all meeting. Nursery, Pre-K, and JK children must arrive at 8:30 a.m. to remain through Sunday school. Since Children's Church has not yet resumed, kindergarteners may attend either service with their parents. All children must register by noon each Saturday. (Please remember that nursery spots are limited and fill quickly.) For more details, visit ipcmemphis.org.

4TH AND 5TH GRADE GINGERBREAD MAKING CONTEST

Sunday, December 20 | 5:00-8:00 p.m. | Mallard's Croft

IPC Children's Ministry will be hosting their Gingerbread Making Contest for 4th and 5th graders again this year at the Mallard's Croft barn, 2867 Hwy 309 North, Byhalia, MS. We want your kids to join in the fun Sunday, December 20, 5:00-8:00 p.m., with dinner, a hayride, s'mores, and more. Visit ipcmemphis.org to register.

Questions? Email Beth Clark, bclark@ipcmemphis.org.

STUDENT MINISTRY

IDK (Middle School) Sunday School | Avon Lawn

Seniorhigh Sunday School | Gym Parking Lot

- No “Wednesdays on the Lawn” this week •

Seniorhigh Christmas Party | December 9 | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Gym Parking Lot

IDK Christmas Party | December 16 | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Gym Parking Lot

IPC CHOIRS

Adult Choir Rehearsal —Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Adult Choir *Lessons and Carols* Rehearsal — Sundays, 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Jr. High and Sr. High Choir Rehearsal — Sundays, 5:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

99 BALLOONS RECESS UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Gift Bags

Volunteers for 99 Balloons will deliver Christmas gift bags to the families of this ministry beginning December 4. Each bag will contain an ornament kit and a special book from Covenanters' Corner Bookstore.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET FUND CARDS

Due to Covid-19, IPC is not assembling and delivering food baskets this year, but your donation will be used by our ministry partners to feed families in need. Cards can be purchased for \$50 in someone's name to honor or memorialize them for Christmas. On sale until December 12, cards are available Sunday mornings at church or online at ipcmemphis.org. Questions? Please contact noelledouglass@gmail.com.

LET COVENANTERS' CORNER HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Choose from a great selection of Advent items, Bibles, devotionals, and other books, plus unique gift ideas, including pottery, linens, jewelry, and children's things. We'll have more Christmas items arriving through Thanksgiving, so do check back often to see what's new! Our bookstore also offers curbside pickup by calling 901-763-3932, plus complimentary gift wrap.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Friday, December 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, December 12, 8:00 a.m.-noon

In this seminar taught by Dr. Sean Lucas, we'll study the biblical elements of Christian leadership to equip male and female members of IPC to serve in a variety of leadership roles: as parents, professionals, citizens, and church members.

*To register, please visit our website, ipcmemphis.org,
or contact Gayle Hardee, ghardee@ipcmemphis.org.*

Note: This seminar also serves as our Fall 2020 Officer Prerequisite Class for those male members of IPC interested in serving as a new elder or deacon at IPC in the future. Please contact Sean Lucas for details regarding course requirements, slucas@ipcmemphis.org.

WATCH FOR THE WINTER *WINDOWS* MAGAZINE

Be on the lookout for your *Windows* magazine, which was mailed last week. In addition to a schedule of our Christmas music, events, and services, the issue includes a message from Sean, a look at the past year doing ministry during COVID, a preview of IPC's February 2021 Missions Conference, and a special offer for Christmas gift-shopping savings at Covenanters' Corner Bookstore.

Music of Christmas

32nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 5 | 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6 | 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

*Adult Choir, Junior High Choir, and Senior High Choir
with members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra*

For 32 years, Independent Presbyterian Church has celebrated the wonder of Christmas with *Lessons & Carols*, and we plan to this year, albeit with modifications. Join us for one of three performances by our Adult, Junior High, and Senior High Choirs plus members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Smaller ensembles will present an abbreviated program of beautiful and familiar selections from years past: Saturday, December 5, 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 6, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Nursery provided with reservations — details to be announced.

*IPC is continuing to follow COVID protocols throughout December,
including using masks and social distancing.*

Family Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday, December 13 | Sanctuary | 6:00 p.m.

*Here's an opportunity to request your favorite Christmas hymns,
even those not often sung, and we'll all sing them together.*



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