



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

December 5, 2021

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

We continue to look at texts from the Minor Prophets that point us forward to Christmas hope; today, we come to Malachi 2:17-3:5. One of the last words from God before Jesus' coming, Malachi is God's messenger of judgment and salvation. As God argues with his people, he breaks through their cynicism about life in this world with the ultimate trump card: God was coming; prepare the way; keep a watch out! And when God comes, justice and righteousness shall follow.

Before God comes, though, he promises to send his messenger to prepare the way. We know from the Gospels that this messenger was John the Baptist. And so, it is fitting for us to hear these words from Luke 3 as our call to worship. John was the voice crying in the wilderness, but he was crying for God's people to prepare the Lord's way. Isaiah 40 and Malachi 3 go together so that we might be ready to see the salvation of our God!

Our worship service this morning brings us into the heart of Christmas hope. As God calls us to worship with the words of the messenger, John the Baptist, from Luke 3, we are reminded that even now God is preparing his own way into our hearts. He draws us to confess our sins, to sing his praise, to offer up our desires to God so that we might meet with this one who is the Word became flesh, Immanuel, God with us.

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 member on your aisle. Our Welcome Center greeters are also eager to assist you or answer your questions. Please see an usher if you need a hearing amplification device.

More opportunities for teaching and fellowship at IPC are listed in the back of this bulletin. Visitors interested in joining IPC are invited to attend our next *Pathway Class for Prospective Members*. For more information or to register, please contact Willa Badolato, (901) 685-8206, or wbadolato@ipcmemphis.org.

Our Sunday morning Worship Services are shown via livestream in the Chapel for families with babies/ young children, latecomers, or any other reason you might be more comfortable there. Additionally, a fully-staffed nursery is available during all services.

We also 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.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

December 5, 2021

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

“Reflections on ‘E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Manz

Jennifer Velázquez, Organ

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!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 3:2-6

The Minister: During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

The Congregation: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The Minister: ‘Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

The Congregation: ‘And the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Minister: Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend Robert O. Browning, Associate Pastor (8:30 a.m.)

The Reverend Parker Tenent, Associate Pastor (11:00 a.m.)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Mitchell Cloutier, Violin Arron Powell, Viola Estefan Perez, Cello

Charles Wesley, 1744

Hyfrydol

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;
high, ap - pear; come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se,
knew no end; by his life he brings us glad - ness,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's
for thy birth we long to hear! O'er the
our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend. Leav - ing

strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou
hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a
rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle

art, dear De - sire of ev - 'ry
 birth: "Go to him, your prais - es
 stall; this the ev - er - last - ing

na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Hyfrydol

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
 born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine own sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things — our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, *Amen*.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us).” —*Matthew 1:23*

THE DOXOLOGY

Adeste Fideles

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest; O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Children's Church (SK) may be dismissed to their worship leader. (8:30 a.m. only)

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen*.

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 OFFERTORY

"Sussex Carol"

arr. Bradford

James A. Brown., Jr., Director

On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy news of great mirth News of our Merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad Since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night.
All Glory to God and peace to men Now and forevermore. Amen.

THE SERMON

Malachi 2:17-3:5 (*pew Bible page 802*)

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

"Hope for the Cynical"

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. Cynical hearts (2:17)

2. Coming hero (3:1-5)

A. Cleansing

B. Judging

3. Christmas hope

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

Frank Houghton, 1894-1972

Quelle Est Cette Odeur Agreable

1. Thou who wast rich be-yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -
2. Thou who art God be-yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -
3. Thou who art love be-yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -
make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” — 1 Corinthians 11:26

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

Isaac Watts, 1719

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
poy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings

room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Antioch

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

THE POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach



IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY

*The decorations in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God
by the Women's Ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church.*

DEATH

We extend our sympathy to

Leigh and Chip Fox on the death of her brother,
Alan Timothy "Tim" Rowland on November 28.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

College | Mark McDonnell | 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 | Ray Wilson | Room 233

60s+ | Mike Malone | Room 237

CHRISTMAS IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

Advent Sermon Series

Continuing through December 26

During Advent, we are taking a detour from Sean's Sunday morning sermon series on the Book of John to look at "Christmas in the Minor Prophets." Wherever you look in Scripture will lead to Jesus — and our Lord himself taught this. In a special Christmas series, we are considering texts from Malachi, Zechariah, Zephaniah, Micah, and Amos to see how they specifically point us to our Savior.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Basket assembly begins in just 5 days!

Food Basket Set-Up | Friday, December 10 | 2:00 p.m.

Assembly and Delivery | Saturday, December 11 | 9:00 a.m.

Giving food baskets at Christmas to help feed families in need is a longstanding IPC tradition, and *basket assembly begins in just 5 days*. Each basket is \$50 and feeds four people for a week. Baskets can be purchased to honor or memorialize someone for Christmas. They are available in the Rotunda today, but you can also purchase them online through the MY IPC Online Giving link on the church website. Select “Friends & Internet Campus,” then “Food Baskets” designation, enter the amount, and complete your donation. You may pick up your gift cards at the reception desk in the lobby. Basket assembly/delivery days are a family event and wonderful opportunity for children ages 4 and up to participate. Nursery will be provided Saturday morning for children under 3.

COVENANTERS’ CORNER BOOKSTORE

For All of Your Holiday Shopping

Let Covenanters’ Corner help with your Christmas shopping. We offer savings on wonderful books and gifts for all ages, including an extensive selection of devotionals for the new year. Mention this ad and receive 20% off your gift purchases.*

(Books are always 20% off.) We also have in-store coupons, complimentary gift wrap, and curbside pickup. What we don’t have: crowds and stress! Open Sunday between services; Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; closed Friday and Saturday.

Need assistance? Call (901) 763-3932 or email covenant@ipcmemphis.org.

**Offer expires December 23, 2021. Excludes consignment and special orders; may not be combined with other coupons. The bookstore will be closed December 24 through January 1.*

GINGERBREAD MAKING CONTEST

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 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m., with dinner, a hayride, s'mores, and more. Registration is now open. Visit ipcmemphis.org to register. Questions? Email Cindy Hammons, chammons@ipcmemphis.org.

COOL GREEN BAG MINISTRY

If you haven't already, grab a Green Bag from the rack in the Rotunda to be filling for our next food collection January 9. Your donations support Mid-South Food Bank efforts supplying pantries and meals for families and seniors in need. For more details on the ministry and a list of suggested food items, visit ipcmemphis.org.

AMAZING GRAZING 2022

When Wednesday night activities resume January 5, we will have a new lineup of 6-week Amazing Grazing options that will be offered in two spring sessions: January 5–February 9 and February 23–April 6 (no meeting March 16).

The Apostles to Augustine, led by Sean Lucas

Romans 8-15, led by Robert Browning

The Intentional Father: A Practical Guide to Raising Sons of Courage and Character book study, led by Dan Butler and Colton Cockrum

The Christian and the Government, led by Nate Kellum and Peter Winterburn

A Theology of the Body, led by Parker Tenent and Leslie Janikowsky

GRIEF SHARE

IPC's Grief Share ministry returns on Wednesday, January 5, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in room 233.

The 13-week seminar and support group is designed to help you rebuild your life after the death of a loved one. Our Grief Share is for women, but we can help men find a Grief Share group at another church. Read more about IPC Grief Share at www.ipcmemphis.org. For more information, contact Lisa Turner, ltturner@ipcmemphis.org, or (901) 685-8206.

RULING ELDERS

Mr. Cannon F. Allen
 Mr. Matthew G. Buyer
 Dr. David Caldwell
 Mr. Richard M. Carter
 Mr. William J. Chase Jr.
 Mr. Ralph S. DelBove
 Mr. Rankin Fowlkes
 Dr. Hugh Francis III
 Mr. Samuel N. Graham II
 Mr. J. Lee Greene Jr.
 Mr. Stephen Guenther
 Dr. Charles R. Halford
 Dr. Hollis Halford
 Mr. Bryan A. Hawkins
 Mr. Ralph Janikowsky
 Mr. Matthew Kennedy
 Mr. George G. Leavell
 Mr. William Martin
 Mr. Dan McEwan
 Dr. James R. Mitchum
 Mr. William R. Mitchum Jr.
 Mr. David R. Neubert
 Mr. Matthew J. Olson
 Dr. Melvin P. Payne III
 Mr. Richard Luther Powell Sr.
 Mr. John W. Stokes III
 Mr. Scott Suddoth
 Mr. Peter Winterburn

DEACONS

Mr. Dan Butler
 Mr. David Butler
 Mr. Craig A. Christenbury
 Mr. John R. Coates
 Dr. Colton Cockrum
 Mr. John Dorrill
 Mr. John Edwards
 Mr. Hugh Francis IV
 Mr. Michael J. Gabrielleschi
 Dr. Kevin Garrett
 Mr. Jay Jacks
 Mr. Corky Jones
 Dr. John G. Kakales
 Mr. William Kay
 Mr. James McDonald
 Mr. William G. Mueller IV
 Mr. Jeff Payne
 Mr. Calvin Purcell
 Mr. Timothy Rainey
 Mr. Alex Ransone
 Mr. Chris W. Rogers
 Mr. Dudley Schaefer Jr.
 Mr. Rick Smith
 Mr. Frederick T. Stukenborg
 Mr. Chris Thornton
 Mr. Jay Vaughn
 Mr. Jim Wilder

IPC OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Church's Main Office | 901-685-8206 |
| Music Office | 901-685-9707 |
| Recreation Office | 901-763-3857 |

COVENANTERS' CORNER BOOKSTORE HOURS

Sunday — Open between services

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday — Closed

901-763-3932

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Independent Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of Jesus by gathering for worship, growing in community, and going out in love.



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Music of Christmas



TONIGHT | 33rd Annual Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Enjoy the beauty and grandeur of Christmas with our highly acclaimed Adult Choir, Children's Choirs, and Junior & Senior High Choirs, plus members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

Family Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday, December 12 | 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

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

Messiah Sing-Along

Sunday, December 19 | 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Come sing some of the most glorious choral music ever written—we provide the musical scores and orchestra, and you provide the choir.

Nursery provided for all programs

Christmas Eve

Family Service | 4:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Communion Service | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

No nursery provided



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