



#### THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

We pick back up in Genesis this morning, and we come to this scene between Abraham and Lot. The temptation is to read this text simply about these two men — while they certainly serve as examples to us, either to follow or avoid, we always need to be on the lookout for how God is at work. Sometimes it is hard for us to see — but God is always at work, sometimes in mysterious ways, to remove obstacles to our obedience, to renew his promises, to rescue us when we are foolish.

In order to develop eyes of faith that see God in mundane decisions, as well as in spectacular deliverances, we come to worship. It is when we come to the sanctuary and behold God's glory and steadfast love that we come to understand more about him and his ways with us and his world. As we hear the call to worship our God from Psalm 27, we are confessing that the Lord is our light and salvation. As we hear the assurance of pardon, we know that God in Christ forgives our sins. As we participate in baptism and hear professions of faith, we are reminded of God's steadfastness and faithfulness to his promises. Let's ask God to open our eyes this morning to see the ways that he is at work in our midst!

#### 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.

The Sanctuary, Balcony, and Fellowship Hall are open to anyone, while we continue social distancing. *Additionally, masks are now required.* The Fellowship Hall is also available for overflow from the Sanctuary. The Chapel is reserved for people who may be at higher risk due to medications or underlying health conditions (and their families). Both morning Worship Services are shown via livestream in the Fellowship Hall and the Chapel.

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.

Visitors interested in joining IPC are invited to attend our next *Pathway Class for Prospective Members*. For more information, please contact Tameria Rackley, (901) 685-8206, or trackley@ipcmemphis.org.

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

# The Thirteenth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

#### THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"The Lord Is My Light"

Iames A. Brown, Ir. Director

Courtney

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 27:1,4

The Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is

the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing have I

asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

The Congregation: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze

upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

*The Minister:* Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend J. Edward Norton, Associate Pastor (8:30 a.m.)
The Reverend Mike Malone, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)

#### THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"The Lord's My Shining Light"



THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

#### THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE



# THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elizabeth Mae Payne (8:30 a.m.)

Jesus loves you, this you know, for the Bible tells you so; Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells you so.

#### THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

#### THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God our heavenly Father, how comforting to know that you declare sinners like us completely forgiven, totally accepted, and profoundly loved through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Forgive us for seeking refuge and security in other things and people rather than in your Son. Pardon us for living in the bondage of sin's dominion rather than in the security of your love. Deliver us from our unbelief of your promises and our unwillingness to love others as you have loved us. Have mercy on us for seeking our own glory rather than living for yours. For we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

#### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

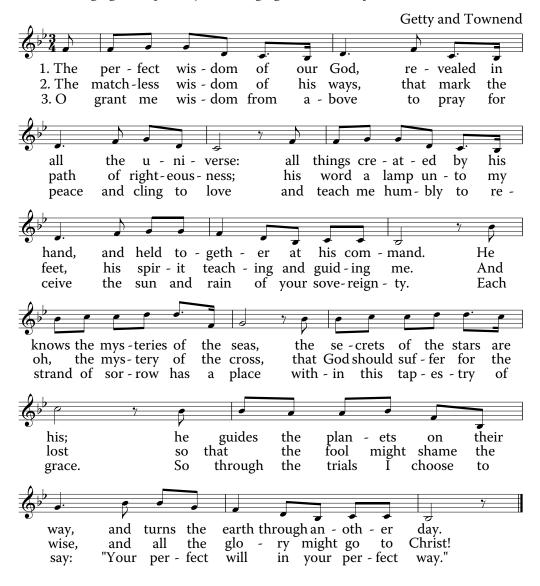
"While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin." —*Psalm 32:3-5* 

#### THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#### "The Perfect Wisdom of Our God"

Elaine Clowers, Soprano Leah Hendrick, Violin James Brown, Guitar

Congregation, please join in singing stanzas 1-3 after the solo verse.



# THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 37

The Minister: But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

The Congregation: Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it, in

order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness for God's glory and our neighbor's good. Such oaths are grounded in God's Word and were rightly used by the people of God in the Old and New Testaments.

*The Minister:* May we also swear by saints or other creatures?

The Congregation: No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the only one who knows

my heart to witness to my truthfulness and to punish me if I swear

falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.

#### 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

"Bright Canaan"

Harrison Howle, Director

arr. Shaw-Parker

O who will come and go with me, I am bound for the land of Canaan. I'm bound fair Canaan's land to see.

O, Canaan, bright Canaan, I'm bound for the land of Canaan. O, Canaan, it is my happy home.

I'll join with them who've gone before, Where sin and sorrows are no more. Our songs of praise shall fill the skies, And higher still our joys they rise.

So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

<sup>2</sup>Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. <sup>3</sup>And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup>to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, <sup>6</sup>so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, <sup>7</sup>and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

<sup>8</sup>Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. <sup>9</sup>Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." <sup>10</sup>And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) <sup>11</sup>So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup>Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup>Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

<sup>14</sup>The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup>for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup>I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. <sup>17</sup>Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." <sup>18</sup>So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, <sup>2</sup>these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). <sup>3</sup>And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). <sup>4</sup>Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. <sup>5</sup>In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, <sup>6</sup>and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as Elparan on the border of the wilderness. <sup>7</sup>Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar.

<sup>8</sup>Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim <sup>9</sup>with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five. <sup>10</sup>Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. <sup>11</sup> So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. <sup>12</sup>They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

<sup>13</sup>Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. <sup>14</sup>When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. <sup>15</sup>And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup>Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

<sup>17</sup>After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup>And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) <sup>19</sup>And he blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. <sup>21</sup>And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." <sup>22</sup>But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup>that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' <sup>24</sup>I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

*The Minister:* This is the Word of the Lord. *The Congregation:* Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

"God at Work"

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

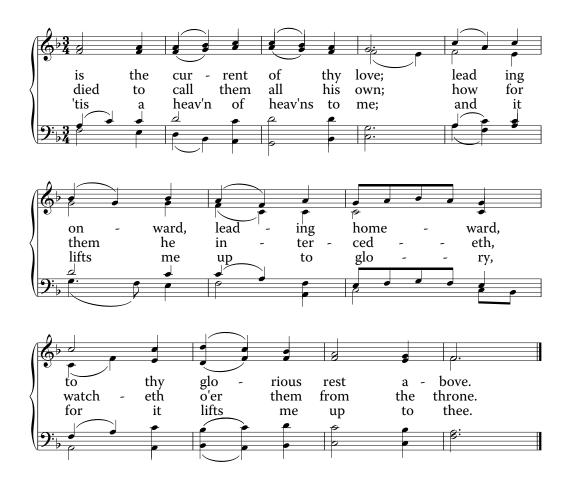
# SERMON NOTES

1.	God removes obstacles (13:1-13)
2.	God reaffirms his promises (13:14-18)
3.	God rescues the foolish (14:1-16)
4.	God receives the honor (14:17-24)

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"

No. 535





# THE BENEDICTION

THE RESPONSE Darwall

My Savior and my Lord, my Conqu'ror and my King, thy scepter and thy sword, thy reigning grace, I sing: Thine is the pow'r, behold I sit in willing bonds beneath thy feet.

# THE POSTLUDE

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King" Jennifer Velázquez, Organist arr. Willan



# **EVENING PRAISE**

# The Thirteenth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty $Six\ O'\ clock$

CALL TO WORSHIP
Psalm 84

Minister: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for

the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Congregation: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a

doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

*Minister:* For the Lord is a sun and a shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good

thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

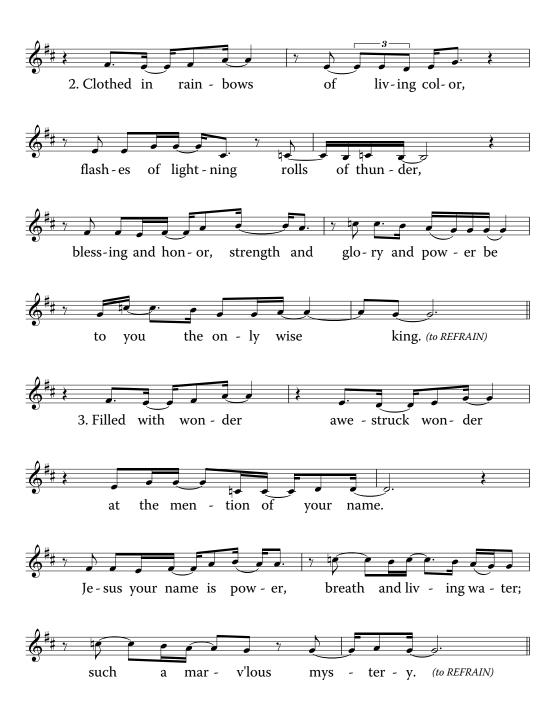
All: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

#### INVOCATION





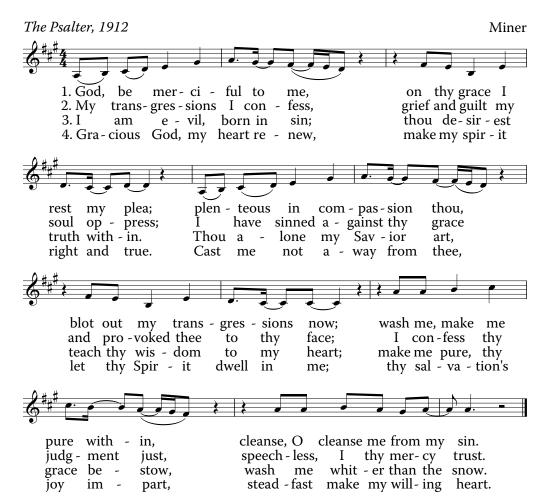




#### Affirmation of Faith

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*.





#### SONG OF PREPARATION "What Wondrous Love Is This"



# SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Peter 3:18

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

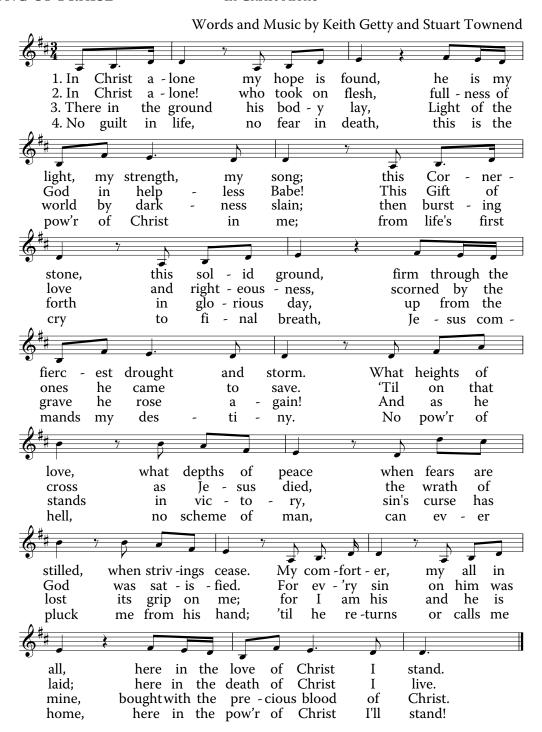
<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

*Minister:* This is the Word of the Lord. *Congregation:* Thanks be to God!

**HOMILY** "Suffered Under Pontius Pilate, Was Crucified, Died, and Was Buried"

The Reverend Mike Malone

Assistant Pastor





### In the Sanctuary Today

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God with love and in honor of the memory of their father, Clinton M. Early, Sr., by Clint Early, Jr., and Dorothy Early Bryant.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

We are happy to welcome the following new members:
Ashley and Andrew Ginn

# **OUTDOOR SUNDAY EVENING PRAISE TONIGHT!**

Weather permitting, we are planning to enjoy Sunday Evening Praise outdoors in the north parking lot *tonight* at 6:00 p.m.! Bring your own chairs and your families, and join us as we praise the Lord, pray together, and hear God's Word on what should be a beautiful end-of-summer evening. Masks will be optional tonight, and there will be plenty of opportunity to visit with one another prior to and after the worship service.

If you have been nervous about gathering indoors to sing and praise, here is a great opportunity to come and worship Jesus our King!

### Welcome Back Sunday School and Wednesday Night

It's been six months since IPC Sunday school classes could meet in person at church, and this morning is our first opportunity to do so! Because classrooms must be kept at 50% capacity to meet local health guidelines, most communities are offering Sunday school lessons twice in a given week: once during the 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday School hour and a second time on Wednesday from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Registration is required each week; sign-up starts at 12:01 a.m. Thursday for both Sunday and Wednesday classes. If your class is only meeting on Sunday morning, you can register for another class on Wednesday nights. For more details, class options, or to register, please go to ipcmemphis.org, and click on "Welcome Back Sunday School and Wednesday Night."

The coffee bar will also reopen this morning; however, a barista will serve your coffee and social distancing guidelines will be in effect for those in line. Masks will be required inside the building.

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#### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

College | Zach Hood | Room 131 | Sunday only

Young Adults | Robert Browning | Room 222/220 | Sunday and Wednesday
Mid 30s-40s | Parker Tenent | Fellowship Hall South | Sunday and Wednesday
Mid 40s-50s | Jeremy Jones | Fellowship Hall North | Sunday and Wednesday
Mid 50s-60s | Ed Norton | Chapel | Sunday and Wednesday
Line by Line Class | Rankin Fowlkes | Room 132 | Sunday only; starts September 20
Westminster Class | Jurey Howard and Ray Wilson | Room 233 | Sunday only
60s+ | Mike Malone | Room 237 | Sunday and Wednesday

#### STUDENT MINISTRY

 $IDK\ (Middle\ School)\ and\ Seniorhigh\ Sunday\ Schools\ start\ today.$ 

Wednesdays on the Lawn | IDK (Middle School) 6:15-7:15 p.m. | Senior High 7:30-8:30 p.m.

#### CHILDREN'S AND NURSERY MINISTRY

Sunday School and Nursery

Nursery, Pre-Kindergarten, and Junior Kindergarten (0-4 years old) start today. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades start September 20; Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade start September 27

Join the Children's and Music Ministries on Wednesday evenings this fall for "That Thing!" Starting this Wednesday, September 16, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will play games, study catechism, create music (not singing, but rhythm instruments such as boomwhackers, choir chimes, and xylophones), and complete service projects. Registration is required. *IPC families should watch their email weekly for protocol details and registration links*.

# IPC CHOIRS ARE BACK FOR THE FALL

Adult Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Senior High Choir Rehearsal — Sundays, 5:00 p.m. (starting today) | Fellowship Hall Junior High Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. (starting September 16) | Sanctuary

#### TEACHING ELDERS

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas Senior Pastor

Rev. Robert Browning Associate Pastor

Rev. Edward Norton Associate Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Jones

Assistant Pastor
Rev. Mike Malone

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Brad Robson Pastor of Student Ministries

Rev. Parker Tenent
Assistant Pastor

Rev. Ford S. Williams, Jr. Pastoral Associate

Rev. John P. Sartelle, Sr.

Senior Pastor Emeritus Rev. Bill Hogan

Assistant Pastor Emeritus

#### RULING ELDERS

Mr. Cannon F. Allen Mr. Matthew G. Buyer

Mr David Caldwell

Mr. Richard M. Carter

Mr. William I. Chase Ir.

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

Mr. Holt Hall

Mr. Bryan A. Hawkins

Mr. John Jurey Howard III

Mr. Ralph Janikowsky

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. Terry Michael Washburn

#### 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. Robert E. Hicks

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 and after 11:00 service Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. (Open Wednesday until 6:30 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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