



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

In our passage today, we find our first song in this Salvation Story: Mary's Song. Evangelicals haven't really known what to do with Mary — do we see her as the “blessed virgin Mary”? As the “Mother of God”? I think we should see her as Luke presents her: as a witness, an actor, a singer, a believer in this great drama of redemption that God is unfolding. Because, of course, this story isn't about her, but about Jesus, the Son of the Most High, the Son of David.

And it is Jesus whom we come to worship today — the Son of God, the second person of the Godhead, who together with the Father and the Spirit, is the true God of this world. He is the righteous Branch, who renews David's line; the Anointed One, completely endued with the Spirit; the righteous Judge, who seeks justice for the poor in body and soul; the Light of Life, who shines in our hearts and in our world. In Jesus, we see God's glory and in Jesus, we experience God's grace. May our God grant you a sight of his glory and grace today!

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.

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

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

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

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

“Sussex Carol”

arr. Velázquez

*Janey Fletcher, Caroline Garrett, Helen Garrett, Eva Ivers,
Haven Ivers, Bryce Leggett, and Emily McKelroy, Handbell Ensemble
Harrison Ervin, Director*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 11:1-4

- The Minister:* There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
- The Congregation:* The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
- The Minister:* He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.
- All:* O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Amen!
Let us worship God!

*Mr. Stephen Felker, Student Ministry Associate/Presbytery Intern (8:30 a.m.)
The Reverend Brad Robson, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)*

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

No. 207

Medieval Latin carol

In Dulci Jubilo

1. Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save!

earth and heav'n be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He hath o-pened heav-en's door, and man is bless-ed ev-er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev-er-last-ing hall.

Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
 dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

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 all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Maeve Wise Coleman (11:00 a.m.)

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you came to the world to shine your light in the darkness, to give new life to those who were spiritually dead. And yet, Lord, far too many of your created ones have rejected your life and light. We too would have rejected you if it had not been for your irresistible grace and kindness that enlightened our minds and renewed our wills. Sadly, we must confess that all too often we still love darkness rather than light, and pursue death instead of life. Forgive us, O Lord, and create in us clean hearts and a new spirit. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” — *2 Corinthians 4:6*

THE ADVENT HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

No. 221

Lauren Griffin, Violin James Brown, Guitar

German hymn, ca. 1500

Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 3. *The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by*
 4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
 fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right,
was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
 the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
 who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 50

The Minister: What does the fourth petition mean?

The Congregation: "Give us this day our daily bread" means: Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and trust in you alone.

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 (8:30 a.m.)

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follower"

arr. J. Brown

The Men's Ensemble

James A. Brown, Jr., Director

Refrain: Follower, Follower, Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

Follower the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

It'll lead to the place where the Savior' born. Rise up, shepherd, and follower.

Leave yo' sheep and leave yo' lambs. Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

Leave yo' lives and leave yo' rams. Rise up, shepherd, and follower.

If you take good heed to the angel's words, Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

You'll forget yo' flocks, you'll forget yo' herds. Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

Leave yo' sheep and leave yo' lambs. Rise up, shepherd, and follower!

Leave yo' lives and leave yo' rams. Rise up, shepherd, and follower.

THE ANTHEM (11:00 a.m.)

“One December, Bright and Clear”

Wilberg

The Women’s Ensemble

James A. Brown, Jr., Director

One December bright and clear, early in the morning,
Mary pressed her newborn near, kissed him so adoring.
Angels sing and shepherds shout! All good creatures turn about!
Ring the bells of joy, ev’ry chime employ,
Make them sing ’til they bring heaven’s wond’rous glory, tell the Christmas story!

That December day at noon, safe against all danger,
Jesus, wrapped in swaddling, lay resting in the manger.
Doves that coo and lambs that bleat, come and see the Mercy Seat!
Ring the bells of peace, let the sounds increase,
Make them soar, ’til they pour heaven’s hope and glory, spread the Christmas story.

As that winter’s eve drew nigh, in the stable lowly,
Mary laid her head to rest, on the Baby holy,
People far and people near, rest your sorrow, take good cheer!
Ring the gladsome bells, blessed tidings tell,
For he brings in his wings heaven’s healing glory, sing the Christmas story!

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-56

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God.

³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth

month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

“Songs of Advent: Mary’s Song”

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. Announcement (26-38)

A. God’s Son

B. God’s servant

2. Authentication (39-45)

3. Anthem (46-56)

A. Might

B. Mercy

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

No. 230

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 BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lemmel

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

THE POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach



IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY

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

BIRTH

Congratulations to

Maribeth and Adam Jeffreys on the birth of their son,
William Russell Jeffreys, on December 3.

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to

Lynn and Peter Albano on the death of his mother,
Arlene Albano, on December 5.

We extend our sympathy to

Bob Acree on the death of his wife,
Juanita Acree, on December 6.

We extend our sympathy to

Wanda and Charlie Fee on the death of her sister,
Hazel Richmond, on December 7.

Family Christmas Carol Sing

This Evening | 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.*

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.

STUDENT MINISTRY

IDK (Middle School) Sunday School | Avon Lawn

Seniorhigh Sunday School | Gym Parking Lot

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

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.

LET COVENANTERS' CORNER HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Wrap up your Christmas shopping at Covenanters' Corner and save on books and gifts for all ages: • Bibles • devotionals • jewelry • pottery • housewares • toys • linens • candles • stationery • and much more. Complimentary gift wrap and curbside pickup too! Save 20% on gift purchases when you mention this ad.* (Books are always 20% off.) Need assistance? Call 901-763-3932 or email covenant@ipcmemphis.org. Open Sunday between services; Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.; closed Friday and Saturday.

**Offer expires December 23, 2020. Excludes consignment & special orders; may not be used with other coupons. Bookstore will be closed December 24 through January 1.*

Christmas Eve

Family Service

4:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Communion Service

5:30 & 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary



Nursery will not be available.



Please note: the service at 5:30 p.m. will be available on Livestream.

WORSHIP SERVICES | DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 3

Join us for morning worship on December 27 and January 3 at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School classes will not meet on these days but will resume on January 10.

No nursery on December 27 or January 3.

YEAR-END GIVING

The financial gifts of God's people are an essential part of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. As 2020 comes to an end, the Finance Committee would like to ask you to continue your financial support of IPC. Gifts can be made through the IPC website, IPC app, or Sunday morning offering; dropped off at the church during business hours; sent by mail; or given through donations of publicly traded stock. The IPC Business Office maintains brokerage accounts with several financial institutions and is able to assist you with a stock transfer should this be of interest. ***All year-end contributions must be dropped in the offering on December 27, dropped off to the Business Office by 5:00 p.m. on December 30 (the Church Office will be closed on December 31), or postmarked by December 31, 2020, to receive the tax benefit in the current year. If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office, or Robert Browning, Executive Pastor.*** Thank you for your financial support and commitment to IPC.



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