



**INDEPENDENT**  
Presbyterian Church

*December 19, 2021*

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

## THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

We come this morning to another beautiful Gospel text, this time in Zephaniah 3. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of King Josiah (640-609 BC), right before the Babylonian exile. He warned about the coming exile of Judah and spoke in terms of “the Day of the Lord.” Typically, the prophets warned about the coming day of the Lord in terms of judgment, but there was also salvation for God’s people when the day of the Lord came. So it is here: not only will the nations be converted (3:9-13), but God’s people will sing glorious songs in response to our Singing Savior, who stands in our midst and sings love songs over us.

Perhaps you have never thought about the Day of the Lord as a day of rejoicing and singing. And yet, in Luke 1-2, what do you have? It is almost like an opera: Zechariah sings; Mary sings; the angels sing; Simeon sings! Why? Because “the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil!” (Zeph 3:15). When God is in the midst of his people, we have to sing songs of praise! And so, it is fitting for us today to praise our God with songs of hope and joy. May God grant us grace today to sing with our eyes fixed on Jesus, our Singing Savior who gives us songs of praise to sing in return!

## 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](mailto: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](http://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

December 19, 2021

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

## THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MEDITATION

"Gesu Bambino" arr. DeCesare  
*Estefan Perez, Cello*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 40:1-5

*The Minister:* Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended.

*The Congregation:* Cry to her that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

*The Minister:* A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

*All:* And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Amen! Let us worship God!

*The Reverend Robert O. Browning, Associate Pastor (8:30 a.m.)*  
*The Reverend Brad Robson, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)*

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!" No. 198  
*Junius Johnson, Abby Powell, and Brandon Rushing, Horns*  
*Mitchell Cloutier and Lauren Griffin, Violins*  
*Arron Powell, Viola Estefan Perez, Cello*

## THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

### THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

No. 224

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.*

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Blair Evelyn Rooker (8:30 a.m.)*

### THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, merciful Father, every time we rebel against your just rule in our lives, we enslave ourselves to the tyranny of guilt and sin. We exchange freedom for bondage, health for sickness of soul. We are left miserable. Forgive us, we pray. We have not lived out of the new reality of life in Christ. We have not understood the power of the Gospel that brings forgiveness and freedom. Enlighten our minds, transform our hearts, and strengthen our wills so that the power of Christ’s resurrection will make us new people. In Jesus’ name, *Amen.*

### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: ‘Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.’” — *Zephaniah 3:16-17*

### THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

No. 201

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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

## THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, 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 Spirit 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *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

“The First Nowell”

arr. Willcocks

*James A. Brown, Jr., Director*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

*Choir and Congregation:*

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

## THE SERMON

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*pew Bible page 790*)

*The Minister:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*The Congregation:* Thanks be to God!

“Songs of Hope”

*Dr. Sean Michael Lucas*

*Senior Pastor*

## SERMON NOTES

1. We sing
  - A. God's mercy

- B. God's presence

2. God sings
  - A. He rejoices

- B. He restores

- C. He rescues

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

No. 227

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel!

Willcocks

THE POSTLUDE

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”  
*Emilee Garrett, Organ*

arr. Hobby



## 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.*

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### DEATH

*We extend our sympathy to*

John Greene and his family on the death of his wife,  
Sally Anderson Greene, on December 8.

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### 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

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### CHRISTMAS IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

*Advent Sermon Series*

Continuing through Next Sunday

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.

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### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Next Sunday, December 26, we will have one morning worship service at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School classes will not meet.

## 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](mailto:covenant@ipcmemphis.org).  
*\*Offer expires December 23, 2021. Excludes consignment and special orders; may not be combined with other coupons.*

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## 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

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## GRIEFSHARE

*Wednesdays, beginning January 5 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. | 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 GriefShare is for women, but we can help men find a GriefShare group at another church. Read more about IPC GriefShare at [www.ipcmemphis.org](http://www.ipcmemphis.org). For more information, contact Lisa Turner, [ltturner@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:ltturner@ipcmemphis.org), or (901) 685-8206.



# Music of Christmas

## TONIGHT | *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*

## Christmas Eve

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

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

*No nursery provided*

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Bookstore closed December 24 - January 1

Wednesday Evening Dinner and Activities resume January 5

Men's Prayer Breakfast resumes January 11

Women's Bible Study resumes January 11

Women's Luncheon January 11

Sunday Evening Praise resumes January 16

## YEAR-END GIVING

The financial gifts of God's people are an essential part of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. As 2021 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 26, 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, 2021, to receive the tax benefit in the current year. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Hicks, Business Administrator, at (901) 212-9772, or Robert Browning, Executive Pastor.*** Thank you for your financial support and commitment to IPC.



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