



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

This morning we hear the next song in this glorious drama of redemption: Zechariah's song. How he must have thought and pondered over the nine months of his enforced silence! Not only did he think about his failure to believe God's Word, but he also undoubtedly thought about God's Word itself: the promise that John would be the one to prepare the way of the Lord, God himself coming to his people. And as his vision was captured by this glorious thought, when his lips were loosed, he had to sing God's praise!

As we come into God's presence this morning to once again hear the good news, we take Zechariah's words as our own in the call to worship. We bless our God for visiting and redeeming a people for his own glory through Jesus Christ, magnifying his mercy and exalting his grace. As we hear the assurance of pardon, we are struck by the image of God's singing and rejoicing over us—what amazing grace this is! And as we participate in Word and sacrament this morning, we are reminded that God continues to rescue his people, giving light to those who sit in darkness and guiding our feet into the way of shalom. Thanks be to God!

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

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"The Birthday of a King"
Tom Horner, Baritone

Neidlinger

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:68-75

The Minister: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

The Congregation: To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

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

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

No. 208

Latin hymn

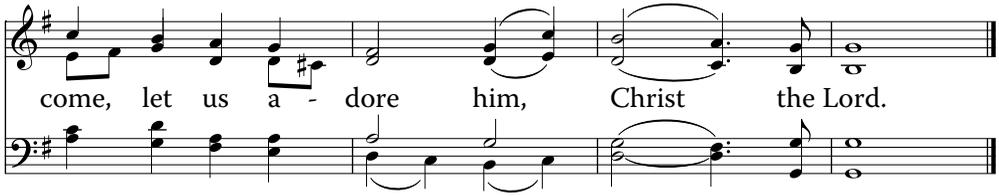
Adeste Fideles

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be -
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

REFRAIN
 hold him born the King of an - gels; O
 God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 God in the high - est;
 Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O



THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Hyfrydol

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Graham Thompson Howle (8:30 a.m.)

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, you have remembered your covenant mercy to us through Jesus. You came to redeem us from all our sins and to set us free to serve you all our days. But instead we have chosen our own way, followed our own paths, walked according to our own counsel. Forgive us, O God. Do not cast us away, but rather remember the mercy that you promised to our fathers and to us. Grant us grace to rest in your promises and to live out of obedient gratitude before you. In Jesus' Name, *Amen*.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"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 ADVENT HYMN

“Song of Zechariah”

Nettleton

James A. Brown, Jr, Guitar

from Luke 1:68-69

Nettleton



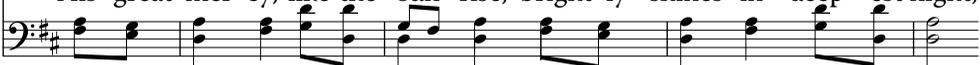
1. Blest be God, the Lord of Is - rael; he has come to set us free!
2. God has come in might to save us from the ha - tred of our foes.
3. God has sworn to grant de - liv -'rance and re - store us to our place:
4. Bring the knowl - edge of sal - va - tion to God's peo - ple in their sin.



And a horn of full sal - va - tion he has raised from Da - vid's seed.
From their cru - el hand he frees us, and his ten - der mer - cy shows
serv - ing bold - ly in his pres - ence, just and ho - ly all our days.
Preach that God is ten - der - heart - ed, and by him are sins for - giv'n.



God has vis - it - ed his peo - ple to re - deem them as fore - told
mer - cy prom - ised in his cov' - nant to our fa - thers whom he chose.
You, my child, will be his Pro - phet, called and sent by God Most High.
His great mer - cy, like the sun - rise, bright - ly shines in deep - est night,



in the prom - ise he had spo - ken thro' his pro - phets from of old.
He will keep his oath to A - br'am to re - lease us from our woes.
You must go be - fore the Lord now to pre - pare his ways a - right.
guid - ing those who sit in dark - ness to the way of peace and light.



THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 51

The Minister: What does the fifth petition mean?

The Congregation: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" means:
Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.

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

"And the Glory" from Messiah
Lauren Griffin, Violin Peter Winterburn, Bassoon
James A. Brown, Jr., Director

Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:57-80

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

“Songs of Advent: Zechariah’s Song”

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

To whom does God show mercy?

1. John’s parents

A. Birth

B. Belief

2. God’s people

A. Promises kept

B. Purpose realized

3. Us

A. Forgiveness

B. Shalom

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

No. 203

Charles Wesley

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new - born King."

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Dix

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
 there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

THE POSTLUDE

"The King Shall Come"
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

arr. Johnson

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks;
 when beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes.

O brighter than that glorious morn, shall this fair morning be,
 when Christ, our King, in beauty comes, and we his face shall see.



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

Mallory and Andrew Parks on the birth of their daughter,
Katherine Jane Parks, on December 10.

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**.*

CHURCH OFFICES AND BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church offices will be closed Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25;
Thursday, December 31; and Friday, January 1.
Covenanters' Corner Bookstore will be closed December 24 — January 1.

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.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 27	10:00 Worship Service <i>No Sunday School</i>
January 3	10:00 Worship Service <i>No Sunday School</i>
January 10	Sunday School Resumes
January 17	Sunday Evening Praise Resumes
January 21	Men's <i>In The Word</i> Bible Study Resumes
February 2	Women's Bible Study Resumes
February 3	Wednesday Dinner and Activities Resume
February 17-21	Missions Conference

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

WORSHIP SERVICES | DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 3 | 10:00 A.M.

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.

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 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
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
Mr. 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 morning 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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