



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

December 26, 2021

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

As we conclude our series on “Christmas in the Minor Prophets,” we come to Amos 9:11-15, these audaciously hopefully words at the end of a relentlessly negative book. As the shepherd-prophet from Tekoa declared God’s judgment upon the northern ten tribes with oracles and visions, it would’ve been easy for God’s people to wonder whether there was any hope in the midst of judgment. This final word tells us that it still makes sense to hope — even when it feels ridiculous and reckless to do so. We hope, because God has fulfilled, is fulfilling, and will fulfill the promises of Amos 9.

We celebrate this as fulfilled reality — even as we look forward to the ultimate fulfillment in Christ’s return — because we know that Christ the Lord was born. And he was born at just the right time: when the time had been fulfilled, God sent his Son. As we hear God’s Word in the various liturgical actions of call to worship and assurance of pardon, and as we sing God’s Word in psalms and hymns, we tell our hearts and all who hear that it is not foolish to hope. What is audacious is exactly what God calls us to — hoping in our 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 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 morning 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.

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR COFFEE OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

December 26, 2021

10:00 a.m.

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"Gesù Bambino"
Tom Horner, Bass
Luke Folsie, Clarinet
Pam Brown, Piano

Yon

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 2:10-14

The Minister: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend Parker Tenent, Associate Pastor

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

No. 226

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Mary Nell Badgett

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. *Amen.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

— *Galatians 4:4-5*

THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

No. 221

Arron Powell, Violin Estefan Perez, Cello James Brown, Guitar

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

New City Catechism, Q and A 49-52

The Minister: Where is Christ now?

The Congregation: Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.

The Minister: What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

The Congregation: Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

The Minister: Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

The Congregation: Christ physically ascended on our behalf, just as he came down to earth physically on our account, and he is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father, preparing a place for us, and also sends us his Spirit.

The Minister: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

The Congregation: It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

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

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

arr. Brown

Men’s Ensemble

James A. Brown, Jr., Director

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

THE SERMON

Amos 9:11-15 (*pew Bible page 771*)

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

“Audacity of Hope

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. The King Restored (11)

2. The Realm Expanded (12)

3. The Curse Reversed (13)

4. The Rule Eternal (14-15)

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Once in Royal David’s City”

No. 225
(stanzas 1-4)

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Irby

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

THE POSTLUDE

“Il Est Ne”

arr. Adams



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
Allison and Barden Greenfield on the death of her father,
Frank Phillips, on December 19.

OUR CHURCH TODAY

We will have one morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. today.
Sunday School classes will not meet.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Bookstore closed through 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

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. 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

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Robert Browning *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Edward Norton *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Jeremy Jones *Assistant Pastor*
Rev. Brad Robson *Pastor, Student Ministries*
Rev. Parker Tenent *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Mike Malone *Pastoral Associate*
Rev. Ford S. Williams, Jr. *Pastoral Associate*
Rev. John P. Sartelle, Sr. *Senior Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. Bill Hogan *Assistant Pastor Emeritus*

MINISTRY STAFF

Alison Barger *Director, Communications*
James A. Brown, Jr. *Director, Worship & Music Ministries*
Pam Brown *Assistant Director, Worship & Music Ministries*
Gwen Carpenter *Food Services Manager*
Ben Ervin *Audio Visual Coordinator*
Mary Virginia Felker *Assistant Director, Senior High Ministry*
Stephen Felker *Student Ministry Associate*
Leigh Fox *Hospitality Consultant*
Emilee Garrett *Children's Choirs Coordinator*
Andrew Ginn *Director, Covenanters' Corner Bookstore*
Lucy Green *Director, Children's Ministry*
Paul Halford, Sr. *Director, Operations*
Cindy Hammons *Assistant Director, Children's Ministry*
Gayle Hardee *Human Resources & Church Data Administrator*
Bob Hicks *Business Administrator*
Rachel Himebook *Director, IPC Ballet*
Rob Howard *Director, Recreation Ministries*
Rebekah Johnson *Assistant Director, Children's Ministry*
Maryanna Story *Assistant Director, Student Ministry*
Lisa Turner *Director, Women's Ministry*
Scott Walker *Worship Assistant*

IPC FOUNDATION

Suellen Warren *Executive Director*

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.

 @IPCmemphis

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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 today, 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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