



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

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 Tamera Rackley, (901) 685-8206, or trackley@ipcmemphis.org.

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

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY

Ten O'clock in the Morning

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Pachelbel

Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 2:2-5

The Minister: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

The Congregation: And many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

The Minister: He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

All: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Reverend J. Edward Norton, Associate Pastor

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

No. 218

James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

Regent Square

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with man is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

REFRAIN
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth;
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: Come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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.

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again, and again, and again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” — *Galatians 4:4-7*

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"All My Heart this Night Rejoices"

No. 217

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Warum Sollt' Ich Mich Denn Gramen

1. All my heart this night re-joic - es
 2. Forth to - day the Con-qu'ror go - eth,
 3. Shall we still dread God's dis - plea - sure,
 4. He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth

as I hear far and near sweet-est an - gel voic - es.
 who the foe, sin and woe, death and hell, o'er-throw - eth.
 who, to save, free - ly gave his most cher-ished Trea - sure?
 sin a - way and for aye full a - tone-ment mak - eth.

"Christ is born," their choirs are sing - ing
 God is man, man to de - liv - er;
 To re - deem us, he hath giv - en
 For our life his own he ten - ders;

till the air ev - 'ry-where now with joy is ring - ing.
 his dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
 his own Son from the throne of his might in heav - en.
 and our race, by his grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 52

The Minister: What does the sixth petition mean?

The Congregation: “And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one” means: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies — the devil, the world, and our own flesh — never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

The Minister: What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

The Congregation: For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever” means: We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

The Minister: What does that little word “Amen” express?

The Congregation: “Amen” means: This shall truly and surely be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer than that I really desire what I pray for.

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

“What Is This Lovely Fragrance?”

arr. Willan

Harrison Howle, Director

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, Hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring.

What is this light so fair, so tender Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant Followed his course o'er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender, Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at his feet we lay our treasure, Heart's adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Saviour, born today.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-35

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many

in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

“Songs of Advent: Simeon’s Song”

The Reverend Mike Malone

Assistant Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. Consolation

2. Peace

3. Pain

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“All My Heart this Night Rejoices”

No. 217

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Warum Sollt' Ich Mich Denn Gramen



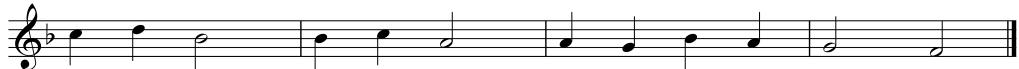
5. Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger,
6. Come, then, ban - ish all your sad - ness,
7. Dear - est Lord, thee will I cher - ish.



soft and sweet, doth en - treat: "Flee from woe and dan - ger.
one and all, great and small; come with songs of glad - ness.
Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not per - ish,



Breth - ren, from all ills that grieve you,
Love him who with love is glow - ing;
but with thee a - bide for - ev - er



you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
hail the star, near and far light and joy be - stow - ing.
there on high, in that joy which can van - ish nev - er.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Nunc Dimittis (tune: St. Columba)

Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world, the Gentile's promised light;
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.

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.*

.....

DEATH

*We extend our sympathy to
Vicki Talley on the death of her husband,
Tinker Talley, on December 16.*

.....

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 today, 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.

CARE BAG MERCY MINISTRY

IPC's Mercy Committee assembles care bags members can keep in their cars to give our city's displaced and homeless people. The bags, which include items such as granola bars, socks, toothpaste/brush, soap, and the hope-giving message of the Gospel, are stored in the lower middle doors of the large china cabinet in the Rotunda. We were thrilled when members collected all of the care bags after our last announcement, and want you to know the cabinet is restocked now with more. Please take as many bags as you would like.

CHURCH OFFICES AND BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church offices will be closed Thursday, December 31, and Friday, January 1.

Covenanters' Corner Bookstore will be closed through January 1.



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church