



**INDEPENDENT**  
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

## THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

After a short “intrusion” of Isaac’s story in Genesis 26, Moses picks back up the main account of Jacob and Esau. Here we see how the strands of the past two chapters come to fruition: the divine promise; the parental favoritism; the generational patterns of sin; the continued purpose of God. They all come together to make sure that God’s promise comes true: the younger one is the chosen one; the older will serve the younger.

But when we read our text, we are dismayed. The entire story is filled with sin and brokenness, family dysfunction, deception, fight and flight. Where is God in any of this? We are reminded yet again that God moves in mysterious ways; our sin does not trump God’s purpose. In fact, the entire story of the Bible points to the ultimate account of how God takes evil and sin to work his purpose — the betrayal of Jesus through the faithless kiss of a friend.

And so our worship this morning not only brings us into God’s presence to worship him, but it also highlights the various ways God works. As we sing God’s Word, pray God’s Word, and hear God’s Word, we are reminded that our worst is woven together in God’s purpose to bring for God’s best, and one of the best days in world history was the darkest of them all.

## 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 required at all times.* 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](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.

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](mailto:trackley@ipcmemphis.org).

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

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE  
*Eight Thirty and Eleven O'clock in the Morning*

## THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MEDITATION

"Air" and "Hornpipe" from *Water Music* Handel  
*Daniel Gilbert, Violin Peter Winterburn, Bassoon*  
*Pam Brown, Harpsichord Jennifer Velázquez, Organist*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 43

*The Minister:* But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

*The Congregation:* When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

*The Minister:* When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

*All:* For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." Amen!  
Let us worship our God!

*Mr. Zach Hood, Director of College Ministry/Presbytery Intern (8:30 a.m.)*  
*The Reverend J. Edward Norton, Associate Pastor (11:00 a.m.)*

# THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“God Moves In a Mysterious Way”

No. 128

William Cowper, 1774

Dundee

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The music ends with a double bar line.

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way his  
2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of  
3. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the  
4. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but  
won - ders to per - form; he plants his foot - steps  
nev - er - fail - ing skill he trea - sures up his  
clouds ye so much dread are big with mer - cy,  
trust him for his grace; be - hind a frown - ing  
in the sea, and rides up - on the storm.  
bright de - signs, and works his sov - ereign will.  
and shall break in bless - ings on your head.  
prov - i - dence he hides a smil - ing face.

5. His purposes will ripen fast,  
unfolding ev'ry hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste,  
but sweet will be the flow'r.

6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
and scan his work in vain;  
God is his own interpreter,  
and he will make it plain.

# THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

# THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Terra Beata

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears,  
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get

The first system of musical notation features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done; Je -

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

— *Romans 8:28-29*

## THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Isaiah 43”

*Tim Keith, Guitar*

Words: Isaiah 43:1-3

Music: Anonymous



1. When you pass through the wa - ters I will be with you,  
walk through the fire you'll not be burned,



and the waves will not o - ver - come you.  
and the flames will not con - sume you.



Do not fear, for I have re - deemed you.  
Do not fear, for I have re - deemed you.



I have called you by name, you are mine.  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

Women For I am the Lord your God,

Men For I am the Lord your God, for I am the Lord your

I am the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el, your Sav -

God. I am the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el, your Sav -

-ior. -ior. Do not fear.

-ior. For -ior. I am the Lord. I am the

Do not fear. Do not fear.

Lord. I am the Lord. I am the

Do not fear. 2. When you fear. I am the Lord.

Lord. 2. When you I am the Lord.

## 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 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 ANTHEM

“Hallelujah, Amen” from *Judas Maccabaeus*  
*John Chase, Director*

Handel

Hallelujah, amen!  
O Judah, rejoice, in songs divine,  
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join!

<sup>34</sup>When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, <sup>35</sup>and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

<sup>1</sup>When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup>Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, <sup>4</sup>and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

<sup>5</sup>Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, <sup>6</sup>Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, <sup>7</sup>Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.’ <sup>8</sup>Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. <sup>9</sup>Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. <sup>10</sup>And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.” <sup>11</sup>But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. <sup>12</sup>Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.” <sup>13</sup>His mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.”

<sup>14</sup>So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. <sup>15</sup>Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. <sup>16</sup>And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup>And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

<sup>18</sup>So he went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” <sup>19</sup>Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” <sup>20</sup>But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” <sup>21</sup>Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” <sup>22</sup>So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” <sup>23</sup>And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him. <sup>24</sup>He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said, “Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son’s game and bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

<sup>26</sup>Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” <sup>27</sup>So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

“See, the smell of my son  
is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed!

<sup>28</sup>May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and plenty of grain and wine.

<sup>29</sup>Let peoples serve you,  
and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers,  
and may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you,  
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”

<sup>30</sup>As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. <sup>31</sup>He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that you may bless me.” <sup>32</sup>His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” He answered, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.” <sup>33</sup>Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, “Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.” <sup>34</sup>As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me, even me also, O my father!” <sup>35</sup>But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.” <sup>36</sup>Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” Then he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” <sup>37</sup>Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?” <sup>38</sup>Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

<sup>39</sup>Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,  
and away from the dew of heaven on high.

<sup>40</sup>By your sword you shall live,  
and you shall serve your brother;  
but when you grow restless  
you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

<sup>41</sup>Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” <sup>42</sup>But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. <sup>43</sup>Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran <sup>44</sup>and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away — <sup>45</sup>until your brother’s anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

<sup>46</sup>Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

<sup>1</sup>Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. <sup>2</sup>Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. <sup>3</sup>God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. <sup>4</sup>May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!” <sup>5</sup>Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob’s and Esau’s mother.

<sup>6</sup>Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women,” <sup>7</sup>and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. <sup>8</sup>So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, <sup>9</sup>Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebaioth.

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

*The Congregation:* Thanks be to God!

## THE SERMON

“God Moves in Mysterious Ways”

*Dr. Sean Michael Lucas*

*Senior Pastor*

# SERMON NOTES

1. Failures

2. Deception

3. Departure

4. Betrayal

## THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

No. 252

Isaac Watts, 1707, 1709

Hamburg

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ my God: all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down: did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## THE BENEDICTION

### THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Finlandia

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide; in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.



**IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY**

The arrangement in the Sanctuary is presented to the glory of God.

.....  
**DEATH**

*We extend our sympathy to*

Karen Carlisle and family on the death of her father,  
John William McDonald, on January 15.

.....  
**OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for the office of Ruling Elder are now being accepted through noon, Sunday, February 14, 2021. Nomination forms with instructions and a voting box are located in the Rotunda. *You may also visit [ipcmemphis.org](http://ipcmemphis.org) to complete the form, then email it to [nominations@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:nominations@ipcmemphis.org).*

.....  
**SIGN UP: NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Nursery is offered during the 8:30 a.m. service and Sunday school, but only children who are in the nursery for the 8:30 service may remain for Sunday school. Parents may pick children up after the 8:30 service, but no new children may arrive for Sunday school. Advance registration is required for ages 0 through 5th grade. Registration opens Tuesday and closes at noon on Saturday. Parents may register children using the IPC app or website. Please call our Children's Department at 901-685-8258 with any questions, or email Beth Clark, [bclark@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:bclark@ipcmemphis.org).

.....  
**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Adult Sunday school classes do not require advance registration. However, we will be following previous COVID protocols, including social distancing and wearing masks.

## WELCOME BACK WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

Wednesday nights at IPC return this week. **Dinner will be safely served starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Weekly dinner reservations are required and can be made now through next Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity to pay online in advance to cut down on money exchanges and traffic. When you arrive on Wednesday night, please go to the check-in table in the Fellowship Hall to confirm prepaid reservations or to purchase a meal.

*February 3 dinner menu: Southern pot roast, roasted new potatoes and carrots, green beans, rolls, apple pie; Kid's meal: grilled cheese, tots, carrots and ranch.*

Join us after dinner, at 6:15 p.m., in Room 237, for a **new Wednesday night series taught by Sean: *Life and Thought of Jonathan Edwards***. We will discover how Edwards — long considered “America’s Theologian” and one of the premier theologians of the Reformed tradition — can help us think about the Christian life in fresh ways, ones that lead us to savor the glory of God and the grace of Jesus. The 8-week series is open to all ages. No reservations required.

**Other offerings** include a study of Scott Sauls’ new book, *A Gentle Answer: Our ‘Secret Weapon’ in an Age of Us Against Them*, lead by Ed Norton in the Chapel; and the Browning Community’s *Leadership Training and Philosophy of Ministry for Young Adults*, in Room 220.

“**That Thing!**” returns this Wednesday night for kids in grades K-5. Children play games, study catechism, create music using instruments, and enjoy service projects (all with safety protocols). The nursery will be open on Wednesdays for children ages 0 through JK. Children must register for “That Thing!” and nursery; registration closes each Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. Spaces are limited and taken on a first come basis. For more information, contact Emilee Garrett, [egarrett@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:egarrett@ipcmemphis.org).

Our **Jr. and Sr. High Choirs** will begin this Wednesday, with pizza at 5:00 p.m., and music, vocal, and instrumental activities from 5:30-6:10 p.m.

The **Student Ministry** will resume meeting this Wednesday night, as well. IDK (Middle School) meets from 6:15-7:15 p.m., and Senior High meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

---

## SIMPLY TUESDAY WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Paul David Tripp’s *Faith: What Are You Hoping For?*

Beginning this Tuesday, February 2

Visit [ipcmemphis.org](http://ipcmemphis.org) for more details, a list of group leaders, and to register for the morning or evening study. *Need nursery care on Tuesday morning? Please register your child once for the entire spring semester. For assistance, contact Beth Clark, [bclark@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:bclark@ipcmemphis.org).*

## IN THE WORD BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

Knowing the Bible study *Hebrews* by Matthew Z. Capps

Taught by Dr. Sean Lucas

Beginning this Thursday, February 4 | 6:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

*Can't make it every Thursday? Weekly lessons are recorded and available to view on YouTube, so it's easy to catch up.*

---

## WOMEN OF IMPACT: A PATHWAY TO THE WELL

IPC's own Sara Lucas is keynote speaker for a women's virtual event sponsored by Streets Ministries and offered free to women across the city to enjoy from the comfort of their homes. On Thursday, February 11, at 6:30 p.m., "Women of Impact: A Pathway to the Well" will be livestreamed from IPC on Facebook. *To register and to learn more about this exciting inaugural event, go to [streetsministries.org](http://streetsministries.org), and click on "Women of Impact."*

---

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAISE

Sunday Evening Praise returns Sunday, February 14, in the Sanctuary, with a new spring homily series, *Jesus Is Our Joy: Studies in Philippians*, taught by Dr. Sean Lucas and the other IPC pastors. Children can attend the service with their families. There will be no nursery available, and Four Corners will not meet.

---

## VALENTINE'S DESSERT BAR

Immediately following Sunday Evening Praise, drop by the Fellowship Hall for a sweet treat with friends! We're having a Valentine's Dessert Bar with your choice of assorted goodies, all safely served.



INDEPENDENT  
Presbyterian Church