

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

September 23, 2021

My dear Friends:

I wanted to share this beautiful letter with you from Jennifer Velázquez, thanking IPC for her time here serving our Lord. Please do join us this Sunday immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service to thank Jennifer and José and tell them how very much we will miss them!

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean".

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Dear IPC Session, Diaconate, Staff, Choir, and Congregation,

It was with mixed emotions that I announced I would be leaving a few weeks ago. Of course, I am thrilled at the prospect of being closer to Elena, Nathaniel, and George, but I am very sad to leave my church family at IPC and will grieve the loss.

I was asked in staff meeting earlier this month what I had liked most about working at IPC for over two decades. I said, "Worship." I was unable to elaborate then, but I wasn't just referring to the music. I love everything about our service of worship: the choir's processional, the call to worship, the prayers, the strong preaching and teaching, the Word's preeminence, the way it uplifts my soul and refocuses my mind and heart after a long week outside of the sanctuary. I love the process of putting the service together—of looking for ways to highlight themes of the sermon in every element, from the opening meditation on. I love my interaction with the third-floor staff throughout the planning process. On Sunday mornings, I love my traffic-free drive from downtown at 6:30 a.m. with sometimes glorious views of the sunrise, my warmup on the organ in the empty sanctuary, our hectic run through of all the music with the instrumentalists and choir, James' prayers for all the service participants, and Sean's thumbs up—"Let's go!"

Why do we spend so much time and energy on this one hour every week? No matter how any of us feels about music styles, etc., I believe there is no division in how we feel here: He is worthy. He is worthy of our best effort (albeit filthy rags). He is worthy of everything we can give him.

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He is worthy of our love expressed—with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. (You may say, of all our time, talent, and treasure.) As the unworthy woman who brought the alabaster jar of expensive perfume and anointed Jesus in an act of love and adoration, so we bring our worship to him. It is not a waste; it is his due.

So, I wanted to say thank you for faithfully employing this lowly Levite since 1998. It has been a great honor, privilege, and joy to serve in the house of the LORD with my fellow saints here. Please allow me to offer you Paul's words of benediction in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24:

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.  
May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will surely do it.*

In His Love and Service,



Jennifer P.K. Velázquez

*Associate Director of Worship and Music Ministries and Organist*

