

SERMON NOTES

December 1, 2013

“What We Need for Christmas: Something Real”
Matthew 1:18-25
The Reverend Richie Sessions

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome into the membership of our church the following new members:
Dr. and Mrs. Brian Brocato (Mary)
Ms. Katie Fowlkes
Mr. Louis Gamble
Miss Suzanna Ginn
Dr. and Mrs. Matt Stewart (Mary Leavitt)

OUR CHURCH TODAY

8:30 a.m.....Worship Service
8:30 a.m.....K-Church (Kindergarten) and Jr. Church (Grades 1 & 2)
9:45 a.m.....Sunday School
11:00 a.m.....Worship Service
11:00 a.m.....K-Church (Kindergarten) and Jr. Church (Grades 1 & 2)
4:00 p.m.....Adult Choir Christmas Rehearsal
5:00 p.m.....Jr. and Sr. High Choirs Christmas Rehearsal

OUR CHURCH WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m.....Dinner, Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m.....Jr. High Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.....Adult Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 p.m.....*Through the Wardrobe*, Bookstore
6:15 p.m.....Preschool and Kindergarten Choirs Program
6:15 p.m.....Divorce Care, Room 229
6:30 p.m.....Dr. Bill Hogan, *Faith and Feelings*, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m.....Grace Groups and Small Groups
6:30 p.m.....Elementary Choir Rehearsals
6:30 p.m.....C.I.A. (*Christ In Action*), Romper Room
6:30 p.m.....Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Groups
7:30 p.m.....Adult Choir Rehearsal

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Join us this Wednesday, December 4, at 6:15 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall, for *The Christmas Story*, presented by the Preschool and Kindergarten Choirs.

THE 25TH ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 8
Sanctuary ~ 5:00 p.m.

Adult and Children’s Choirs with members of
the Memphis Symphony Orchestra
and

Sanctuary ~ 7:00 p.m.

Adult, Senior and Junior High Choirs with members of
the Memphis Symphony Orchestra

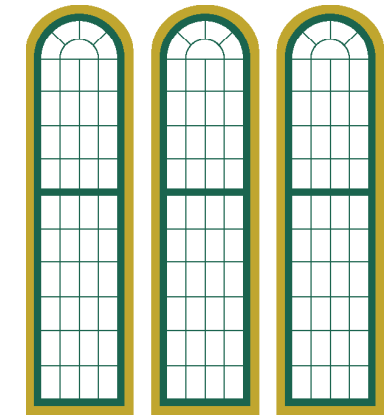
IPC CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

We are accepting donations for our annual Christmas Food Basket ministry. Each basket is \$50 and may be given in honor or memory of someone. Honorarium and memorial cards with envelopes are available in the IPC Rotunda now through December 15. Volunteers are needed to unload the delivery trucks on Friday, December 20, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to assemble and deliver baskets on Saturday, December 21. For more information, please visit www.indepres.org/e-giving, and click on the “Christmas Food Baskets” link.

WEEKEND PASTORAL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a pastoral emergency over the weekend, please contact the
Minister on Call, 901.268.3004.

Please do not bring your coffee or food into the IPC Sanctuary. Thank you.



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

GRACE GROUP QUESTIONS

Grace Group Questions and the Sermon Outline will be available on our website tomorrow, Monday, December 2. Please visit www.indepres.org.



WELCOME TO IPC

Visitors are special at IPC. Please fill out the Friendship Pad and pass it down the aisle so that we will know you were here. Join us on Wednesday evenings for our Fellowship Dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by an adult Bible Study, Small Groups, and youth and children’s programs at 6:30 p.m.

Visitors interested in joining IPC are invited to attend our *Pathway Class for Prospective Members*. Please contact the Church Office, 901.685.8206, for more information.

A fully-staffed nursery is available during all services.

THE FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Anne Marie and J. David Heuer
by their children, Anne and Bayard Snowden, John, Jr. and Sandy Heuer,
and Christopher and Krissie Heuer.

Audio recordings of this morning’s sermon are available in the bookstore immediately following the 8:30 worship service, or during the following week on the internet at www.indepres.org.

THE MISSION OF INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in Memphis,
calling them into a devoted community of worshiping
and maturing believers, and sending them out to be
salt of the earth and light in the world,
all to the glory of God.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.— John 1:14

THE PRELUDE

“Silent Night, Holy Night” arr. Powell
Arron Powell and Augusta Ann Vining, Violins

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 4:8; 4:11; 5:9-10; 5:12

The Minister: “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

The Congregation: “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”

The Minister: “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

The Congregation: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

The Reverend J. Edward Norton
Associate Pastor

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” No. 218

THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*

THE GLORIA PATRI

Gloria

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King,
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

☞ *Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.* ☞

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Opromised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on Your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on Your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that You should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for Your peace, for Your pardon, and for Your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. *Amen.* — *The Worship Sourcebook*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” — *2 Corinthians 5:21*

THE DOXOLOGY

Adeste Fideles

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

THE OFFERTORY

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn” Aspaas
James A. Brown, Jr., Director

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await Your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, loving bright,
Till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour before the silv'ring skies,
We long to see Your day arise, whole and wise, whole and wise,
O lucent Morning Star.

As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,
May we Your healing light release, living peace, living peace,
Unto Your holy dawn.

Shine Your future on this place, enlighten ev'ry guest,
That through us stream Your holiness, bright and blest, bright and blest;
Come dawn, O Sun of grace. We await Your light.

THE SERMON

Matthew 1:18-25 (*Pew Bible, page 807*)
“What We Need for Christmas: Something Real”
The Reverend Richie Sessions
Senior Pastor

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“What Child Is This” No. 213

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.” — *1 Corinthians 11:26*

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross” No. 264

THE BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

“Be Near Me, Lord Jesus” Cradle Song

THE POSTLUDE

“The King Shall Come when Morning Dawns” arr. Johnson
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist



If you would like to pray with someone, please come to the Chapel after the 8:30 or 11:00 service.