

SERMON NOTES

December 15, 2013

Luke 1:46-56

“What We Need for Christmas: Real Hope and Joy”

The Reverend Richie Sessions



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.

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 FLOWERS

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by the Women of the Church.*

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
9:45 a.m..... Pathway Class, 3rd Floor Conference Room
11:00 a.m.....Worship Service
11:00 a.m..... K-Church (Kindergarten) and Jr. Church (Grades 1 & 2)

OUR CHURCH WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m..... Adult Choir Christmas Eve Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET NEEDS:

Ample funds for all the needy families
Workers to help unload the delivery trucks (Friday, 12/20)
Workers to distribute (Saturday, 12/21)
The Lord will be shared with each Food Basket delivered

*Please prayerfully consider giving of your time
and finances to support this wonderful IPC ministry.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Family Service — Fellowship Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Perfect for families with young children

Nursery is provided for children ages 2 and under

Candlelight Communion Service — Sanctuary, 5:30 p.m.

with Choir and Instruments

Nursery is provided for infants through preschool

Candlelight Communion Service — Sanctuary, 11:00 p.m.

No nursery available

HOLIDAY OFFICE AND BOOKSTORE HOURS

The Church Offices will close at noon on December 24, and will reopen at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 26. The Offices will also close at noon on December 31, and will reopen at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

The Bookstore will close at noon on December 24, will be open on Sunday, December 29, and will be closed again the week of Monday, December 30. It will reopen on Sunday, January 5, 2014, with regular hours.

HOLIDAY GATHERING

There will be no Adult or Children's Sunday School on December 29. Instead, join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m., for coffee and breakfast.

SAVE THE DATE

A PRAYING LIFE SEMINAR

with Paul Miller

January 24 - 25, 2014

Contact Maureen Odiam, modiam@indepres.org, for more information.

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



INDEPENDENT *Presbyterian Church*

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

THE MISSION OF INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in Memphis,
calling them into a devoted community of worshipping
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 FIFTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

THE PRELUDE

"A Medieval Procession" Peery
The Handbell Choir, directed by Christy Watridge

Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

— based on Luke 1:46-50
from *The Worship Sourcebook*

The Minister: "Our souls magnify the Lord!

The Congregation: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The Minister: The mighty One has done great things for us!

The Congregation: Holy is God's name!

The Minister: Come, let us worship God.

The Congregation: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy."

The Reverend Jeremy Jones, Assistant Pastor

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 194
(arr. Peery)

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 ENSEMBLE

"English Advent Carol" trad./arr. Liebergen
Luke Folse, Clarinet Harrison Howle, Director

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our lives are cluttered, Lord Jesus, by too many things and too much to do. We are driven by the need to succeed and distracted from our service. We have often lost our way. Forgive us. Let us, like Mary, find the one thing that is needed and sit at Your feet. *Amen.* — *The Worship Sourcebook*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord: 'though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.'" — *Isaiah 1:18*

THE ADVENT HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

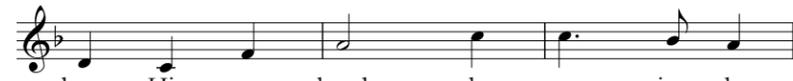
anonymous MUELLER



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a
□. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a -
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to



bed, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid
wakes, but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no
stay close by me for - ev - er and



down His sweet head; the stars in the
cry - ing He makes; I love Thee, Lord
love me, I pray; Bless all the dear



bright sky looked down where He lay, the
Je - sus! Look down from the sky, and
chil - dren in Thy ten - der care, and



lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead; I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

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 (8:30 a.m.)

arr. Brown

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Foller"

The Men of the Choir James A. Brown, Jr., Director

Foller, foller. Rise up, shepherd, and foller! Foller the star of Bethlehem.
There's a star in the East on Christmas morn.
It'll lead to the place where the Savior' born.
Leave yo' sheep and leave yo' lambs.
Leave yo' lives and leave yo' rams.
If you take good heed to the angel's words,
You'll forget yo' flocks, you'll forget yo' herds.
Foller. Won't you foller, why don't you rise up, shepherd, and foller, foller!
Foller the star of Bethlehem.

THE OFFERTORY (11:00 a.m.)

"This Little Babe" from *A Ceremony of Carols* Britten
The Women of the Choir Jennifer Velázquez, Director

This little Babe so few days old, Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at His presence quake,
Though He Himself for cold do shake; For in this weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell He will surprise.
With tears He fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes, His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh His warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib His trench, haystalks His stakes; Of shepherds He His muster makes;
And thus, as sure His foe to wound, The angels' trumps alarum sound.
My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; Stick to the tents that He hath pight.
Within His crib is surest ward; This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

THE SERMON

Luke 1:46-56 (*Pew Bible, page 856*)

"What We Need for Christmas: Real Hope and Joy"
The Reverend Richie Sessions, Senior Pastor

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 196

THE BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo!" arr. Brown

THE POSTLUDE

"The Friendly Beasts" Peery



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