

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN

*Eleven O'clock*

## THE PRELUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Cherwien  
*Jennifer Velázquez, Organist*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9: 6; 1 John:1-2

*The Minister:* “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

*The Congregation:* “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life —

*The Minister and Congregation:* The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.”

*The Reverend J. Edward Norton  
Associate Pastor*

## THE HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” No. 203

## THE HYMN

“What Child Is This” No. 213

## 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, forever. *Amen.*

## THE GLORIA PATRI

Adeste Fideles

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

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

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord of Christmas, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift You gave freely. We have buried You so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see You. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored Your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against Your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin. Free us from our captivity. Free us to a life lived in joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” — *Matthew 1:21*

## THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” No. 194

## 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 the 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 DOXOLOGY

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. *Amen.*

## THE OFFERTORY

“Where Riches Is Everlastingly” Chilcott  
*Harrison Howle, Director*

Into this world this day did come Jesus Christ both God and Man,  
Lord and servant in one person, born of the blessed virgin Mary.  
*I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.*

He that was rich without a need appeared in this world in right poor weed  
To make us that were poor indeed, rich without any need truly.

A stable was His Chamber, a crib was His bed,  
He had not a pillow under His head;  
With maiden's milk that babe was fed,  
In poor clothes was wrapped the Lord Almighty.

A noble lesson here is taught, to set all worldly riches at naught,  
But pray that we may be thither brought where riches is everlastingly.

## THE SERMON

Luke 2:8-14 (*pew Bible page 857*)  
“Immortal Gladness”  
*The Reverend J. Edward Norton*

## THE HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High” No. 214

## THE HYMN

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” No. 195

## THE BENEDICTION

## THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Ode to Joy  
Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

## THE POSTLUDE

“Paeon on ‘Divinum Mysterium’” Cook



## SERMON NOTES

December 25, 2016

Luke 2:8-14

“Immortal Gladness”

*The Reverend J. Edward Norton*

## THE FLOWERS

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

## OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 25

11:00 a.m. .... Worship Service

## COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper will be observed next Sunday, January 1, 2017, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. ***Please note that this is the only worship service on this day, and there will be no nursery or Sunday School.***

## NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY CHOIR

We are honored to host the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir this January. The choir will be in concert on *Saturday, January 7*, at 7:30 p.m., and will sing during our 8:30 a.m. worship service on *Sunday, January 8*. Host homes are needed. ***Please contact the Music Office if you are interested in hosting.***

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on January 15, 2017, to vote on amendments to the IPC constitution and bylaws. *Additional information available in the main lobby.*

## *Grace and Mercy for a New Memphis*

## IPC MERCY CONFERENCE | JANUARY 22-29

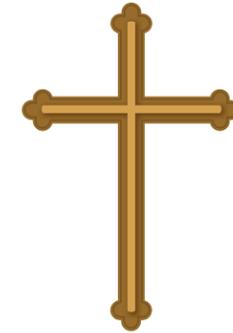
This January, IPC's Going Out in Love committee is hosting a conference focusing on mercy ministry. Our desire is that, as a church, we increasingly take Jesus' words to heart and put them into practice. Several seminars will be taught by The Chalmers Center, and Brian Fikkert, author of *When Helping Hurts*, will preach on Sunday, January 29. Join us in exploring together a biblical view of mercy.

## YEAR-END GIVING

The financial gifts of God's people are an essential part of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. As 2016 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, Sunday morning offering, dropped off at the church during business hours, by mail, or publicly traded gifts of 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.

Gifts may be dropped off at the front desk on Friday, December 30, until 6:00 p.m. The church is closed on Saturday, December 31, but gifts mailed and postmarked on December 31 will be included as 2016 contributions. ***Our accounting firm has advised that any gifts received on Sunday, January 1, through the offering plate must be processed as 2017 contributions regardless of the check date. All year-end contributions must be postmarked or received by December 31, 2016, to receive the tax benefit in the current year.*** Thank you for your financial support and commitment to IPC.

*~Please enjoy your coffee outside of the Sanctuary. Thank you.~*



# INDEPENDENT Presbyterian Church

## 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 ***beginning January 11, 2017***, for our Fellowship Dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by Bible Study, Grace Groups and Small Groups.

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

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Our Worship Services are shown via live stream in the Chapel for families with babies/young children, latecomers, and for any other reason you might be more comfortable there.

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*Our sermons are now available on Sunday mornings via Live Stream. Visit [www.indepres.org](http://www.indepres.org) for the link. Please note: the link will be active only on Sunday morning. In addition, 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 our website.*

CCL #2570138

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## THE MISSION OF INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

is to make disciples of Jesus by *gathering* for worship,  
*growing* in community, and *going out* in love.