



**INDEPENDENT**  
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

## THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

On the surface, the book of Ruth is not the most obvious place to go for a series of Christmas sermons. But I want to persuade you by that we can preach about Christmas from every part of the Bible because every part of the Bible is about Jesus and his coming to deliver his people. In past years, we've looked at Exodus and Revelation in this season; this year, Ruth.

While the sermon title refers to the Christmas carol written by the English poet, Christina Rossetti, strictly speaking, neither the scene in Ruth 1 nor the nativity scenes occurred in midwinter; surely there was no snow on the ground in Palestine! And yet, both for Ruth and Naomi and for God's people at the turning of the times, it was certainly bleak, hard, cold — little hope of salvation and deliverance. But God had not abandoned his people; he will supply their barrenness with his mercy and grace.

And so, our service today helps us to call out of our barrenness and to ask the Lord to come into our hearts and lives. Our call to worship comes from the initial promise to Mary from Luke 1 — that in the midst of her “barrenness,” the result of her virginity, God would bring life, the one who would be the Son of the Most High, the forever king ruling over his forever kingdom. He is the one who delivers his people from their sins; he is the long-expected one: Jesus, Son of Boaz, Perez, and David, Son of God. May God meet you in the midst of your bleak midwinter and fill you with his grace!

## 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 member on your aisle. Our Welcome Center greeters are also eager to assist you or answer your questions. Please see an usher if you need a hearing amplification device.

More opportunities for teaching and fellowship at IPC are listed in the back of this bulletin. Visitors interested in joining IPC are invited to attend our next *Pathway Class Weekend for Prospective Members*, February 7-8, 2020. For more information or to register, please contact Tamera Rackley, (901) 685-8206, or [trackley@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:trackley@ipcmemphis.org).

Our Sunday morning Worship Services are shown via live stream in the Chapel for families with babies/young children, latecomers, or any other reason you might be more comfortable there. Additionally, a fully-staffed nursery is available during all services.

We also live stream our 8:30 and 11:00 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 in the bookstore immediately following the 8:30 worship service, or during the following week on our website.

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN

*Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock*

## THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MEDITATION

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Praetorius

*Beth Rushing, Soprano   Elaine Clowers, Alto*  
*Randal Rushing, Tenor   Harrison Howle, Bass*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:30-33

*The Minister:* “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Amen! Let us worship our God and King!

*The Reverend Jeremy Jones, Assistant Pastor (8:30 a.m.)*  
*The Reverend Robert O. Browning, Associate Pastor (11:00 a.m.)*

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”

No. 198  
(Stanzas 1-4)

## THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

## THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Truro

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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

## THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things — our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, *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 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.

*Children (Kindergarten) may be dismissed to their worship leader.*

## THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *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 OFFERTORY

“One Sweet Little Baby”

McClure and Kinneson

*James A. Brown, Jr. Director*

arr. Kirchner

O Mary, shining glory! The Lord smiles upon you.

What a blessing is this little baby that you brought to our world,

*Refrain: O all for the love of one sweet little baby, All for the love of one sweet baby child,  
All for the love of one sweet little baby, we have come so far.*

O, a good old man named Simeon said,

“I’m never gonna rest till I see that Messiah child and hold him to my breast.”

Many gonna speak against you, child, they’ll crucify all that’s true.

And your mother Mary she will bear a pain that will pierce her heart through.

O Jerusalem, your children are so tired of war,

My Lord, it’s time to walk with your children once more.

## THE SERMON

Ruth 1:1-22 (*pew Bible page 222*)

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

*The Congregation:* Thanks be to God!

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Dr. Sean Michael Lucas*

*Senior Pastor*

## SERMON NOTES

### 1. Exile

A. Departure

B. Death

C. Destitution

### 2. Return

A. The Lord visited

B. The Lord's love

## THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”  
*Luke Folsie, Clarinet James Brown, Guitar Tim Keith, Bass*

No. 230

## 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

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 196

## THE BENEDICTION

## THE RESPONSE

Veni Emmanuel

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## THE POSTLUDE

“Hyfrydol”  
*Jennifer Velázquez, Organist*

arr. Vaughan Williams



# THE FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

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**DEATH**

*We extend our sympathy to*

Mona and David Dunlap on the death  
of his brother, John Robert Dunlap, Jr. (Jay),  
on November 5.

.....  
**DEATH**

*We extend our sympathy to*

Berl Garey and Vicki and Chuck Halford  
on the death of Berl's wife and Vicki's mother,  
Marilyn Garey, on November 25.

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**OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 1**

- 8:30 a.m. .... Worship Service and Communion
- 8:30 a.m. .... Children's Church (Kindergarten)
- 9:45 a.m. .... Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. .... Worship Service and Communion
- 11:00 a.m. .... Children's Church (Kindergarten)
- 2:00 p.m. .... IDK and Seniorhigh Turkey Bowl | MUS
- 3:30 p.m. .... Adult Choir Christmas Rehearsal
- 4:30 pm. .... 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choirs Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. .... Jr. and Sr. High Choirs Rehearsal



## SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45-10:45

Nursery & Preschool –  
*First floor, rooms divided by age*  
Kindergarten — Room 209

1st grade — Room 216  
2nd grade — Room 215  
3rd grade — Room 217

4th/5th grade — Room 201  
IDK (Middle School) — Room 155  
Seniorhigh — Room 254

### YOUNG ADULTS

College (Zach Hood) | Room 131  
Browning Community (20s-30s) | Room 220-222

### MIDDLE ADULTS

Tenent Community (30s-40s) | Fellowship Hall South  
Jones Community (40s-50s) | Fellowship Hall North

### MATURE ADULTS

Norton Community (50s-60s ) | Chapel  
Malone Community (60s+) | Room 237  
The Westminster Class (Jurey Howard and Ray Wilson) | Room 233  
Line by Line Class (Rankin Fowlkes) | Room 132

## OUR CHURCH WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 4

# He Is Born

Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m., this Wednesday, December 4.  
Beginning at 6:15 p.m., in the Sanctuary, the Pre-Elementary, Children's,  
Junior High, and Senior High Choirs will present *He Is Born*.

### *Menu for Wednesday Dinner, December 4*

Roast Beef Brisket with Horseradish Sauce and Mushroom Sauce,  
Twice-Baked Stuffed Potatoes, Haricots Verts Green Beans, Rolls,  
Red Velvet Cake, Toasted Coconut Pie, Cookies

Kid's Box: Chicken Tenders, Carrots, Rudolph's Chocolate Pudding



## OUTREACH & MINISTRIES

### CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR | CHAPEL

*Friday, December 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, December 7, 8:30 a.m.-noon\**

In this seminar taught by Dr. Sean Lucas, we'll study the biblical elements of Christian leadership to equip male and female members of IPC to serve in a variety of leadership roles: as parents, professionals, citizens, and church members.

*To register, please visit our website, [ipcmemphis.org](http://ipcmemphis.org).*

*You may also contact Gayle Hardee, [ghardee@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:ghardee@ipcmemphis.org).*

*Note:* This seminar also serves as our Fall 2019 Officer Prerequisite Class for those male members of IPC interested in serving as a new elder or deacon at IPC in the future. Please contact Sean Lucas for details regarding course requirements, [slucas@ipcmemphis.org](mailto:slucas@ipcmemphis.org).

\*A continental breakfast will be provided on Saturday morning.

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### CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Food Basket Set-Up | Friday, December 13 | 2:00 p.m.

Assembly and Delivery | Saturday, December 14 | 9:00 a.m.

Sales of our IPC Christmas Food Baskets have begun in the IPC Rotunda. You can also purchase them online now through MY IPC Online Giving at [ipcmemphis.org](http://ipcmemphis.org).

Click on My IPC, click on Giving, then Online Giving. Select "Friends & Internet Campus," then select the "Food Baskets" designation. Enter the amount, then complete your donation.

You may pick up your gift cards at the reception desk in the lobby. Each basket is \$50.00.

Our goal is to deliver 1,200 baskets to families involved with Neighborhood Christian Center, Streets Ministries, and Palmer Home. Each basket feeds four people for a week.

Basket assembly/delivery days are December 13 and 14. This is a family event and a wonderful opportunity for children ages 4 and up to participate.

*Nursery will be provided on Saturday for children under 3.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Women of the Church | Decorate the Church | December 5**

**99 Balloons rEcess | December 6 | 6:30-10:00 p.m.**

**Children's Sunday School Parties (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) | December 15**

**Gingerbread Contest (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades) | December 15**

**Christmas Eve Family Service | December 24 | 4:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall (no nursery)**

**Christmas Eve Communion Service | December 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary (no nursery)**

**Joint Sunday Worship Service | December 29 | 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School)**

**Men's Prayer Breakfast resumes | January 7 | 6:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall**

**Wednesday Evening Teaching and Activities resume | January 8**

**Women's Bible Study resumes | January 21**

**Sunday Evening Praise resumes | January 19 | 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary**

**In the Word Men's Bible Study resumes | January 23 | 6:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall**

**IPC Scouts Pinewood Derby | January 25**

**Souper Supper | January 26 | Immediately following Sunday Evening Praise | Fellowship Hall**

*The church offices will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 31, and January 1.*

# Music of Christmas



## He Is Born

6:15 p.m. | Wednesday, December 4  
Pre-Elementary, Children's, Junior High  
& Senior High Choirs  
*Sanctuary*

## 31st ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE *of Lessons & Carols* Sunday, December 8 | 6:00 p.m.

*Adult Choir, Children's Choirs, and Junior & Senior High Choirs  
with members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra*

## Messiah Sing-Along

6:00 p.m. | Sunday, December 15 | *Sanctuary*

## Family Christmas Carol Sing

6:00 p.m. | Sunday, December 22 | *Sanctuary*



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