



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

In many ways, Ruth 3 is the climax of the story: Boaz agrees to serve as Ruth and Naomi's redeemer and to rescue them. But it is striking that this climax occurs at midnight — how many times in God's Word does he come to bring salvation and judgment in the middle of the night! Most obviously, and paradigmatically, God's redemption of Israel in Exodus occurred at midnight (Exodus 12:29-30); that was when the firstborn of Egypt dies as the means by which God's firstborn, Israel, might live. But there would be another midnight hour when angels will sing about the redemption of the world: as the shepherds kept watch over their flocks by night, they heard, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Such good news meant that God's glory was being displayed in the highest places — for peace was coming to his people on earth (Luke 2:11-13).

And so, as we sing and worship and pray and hear God's Word, let us be mindful of the ways that our Redeemer comes to rescue us! He is the horn of salvation, the strong deliverer, about whom Zechariah sang; he is the promise-keeper, the one in whom all of God's promises are "Yes and Amen!" He is the faithful Lord, the God of steadfast love, who hears our prayers and answers. And he sends us forth with great joy as messengers of his grace to a dying world. What joy there is for all those who know Jesus, the Redeemer of God's Elect! Let us worship him!

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.

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. 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.

1 ***As you enter the Sanctuary, please silence your mobile devices.***

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

"Joy to the World" arr. Ingram
The Handbell Choir
Emilee Garrett, Director

THE MEDITATION

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Es ist ein' Ros'
The Men of the Choir

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:68-75

The Minister: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

The Congregation: To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

The Minister: Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend Brad Robson, Assistant Pastor (8:30 a.m.)
The Reverend Robert O. Browning, Associate Pastor (11:00 a.m.)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

No. 207

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Irby

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Elizabeth Estes Wilson (8:30 a.m.)

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World, you came to seek and to save the lost and release the captives. We don't realize how lost we once were, nor how enslaved we were to sin. We were overwhelmed by the powers of darkness, separated from your love, and awaiting the sting of death. Yet because you love us, you made yourself nothing, in order to save us from our sins. Forgive us for not receiving you, the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. We have taken your sacrifice for granted, and we have spurned your love, even though you are worthy of all of our love. Deliver us, Emmanuel. Come to our hearts, Lord Jesus, there is room in our hearts for you. *Amen.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“For the Son of God, Jesus, whom we proclaimed among you . . . was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.” — *2 Corinthians 1:19-20*

THE ADVENT HYMN

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

No. 200

Children (kindergarten) may be dismissed to their worship leader on the last verse.

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q and A 100-102

Question and Answer 100

The Minister: What does the preface of the Lord’s Prayer teach us?

The Congregation: The preface of the Lord’s Prayer, which is, “Our Father in heaven,” teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

Question and Answer 101

The Minister: What do we pray for in the first petition?

The Congregation: In the first petition, which is, “Hallowed be your name,” we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he makes himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

Question and Answer 102

The Minister: What do we pray for in the second petition?

The Congregation: In the second petition, which is, “Your kingdom come,” we pray that Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

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

“My Lord Has Come”
James A. Brown, Jr., Director

Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come.
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come.

THE SERMON

Ruth 3:1-18 (*pew Bible pages 223-224*)
The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.
The Congregation: Thanks be to God!
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. Plan (1-6)

2. Plea (7-9)

3. Promise (10-18)

A. Word

B. Sign

THE CLOSING HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

No. 203

THE BENEDICTION

THE RESPONSE

Veni Emmanuel

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE POSTLUDE

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

arr. Jeep



Messiah Sing-Along

Tonight | 6:00 | IPC Sanctuary

THE FLOWERS

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Lee Rantzow by her family.*

OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 15

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service
8:30 a.m.	Children’s Church (Kindergarten)
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
11:00 a.m.	Children’s Church (Kindergarten)
6:00 p.m.	<i>Messiah</i> Sing-Along



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45-10:45

Nursery & Preschool – <i>First floor, rooms divided by age</i>	1st grade — Room 216	4th/5th grade — Room 201
Kindergarten — Room 209	2nd grade — Room 215	IDK (Middle School) — Room 155
	3rd grade — Room 217	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

YEAR-END GIVING

The financial gifts of God's people are an essential part of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. As 2019 comes to an end, we would like to ask you to continue your financial support of IPC. Gifts can be made through the IPC website, IPC app, 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. ***All year-end contributions must be dropped in the offering on December 29, dropped off to the Business Office by 5:00 p.m. on December 30 (the Church Office will be closed on December 31), or postmarked by December 31, 2019, to receive the tax benefit in the current year. If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office, or Robert Browning, Executive Pastor.*** Thank you for your financial support and commitment to IPC.



OUTREACH & MINISTRIES

IPC MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS NIGHT

Dinner and Conversation with Dr. Scott Morris, CEO and Founder of Church Health

Thursday, January 9, 2020 | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | IPC Fellowship Hall

Come hear Dr. Morris discuss the ways in which your professional training can be used as a vocational calling to work in God's Kingdom. Cost for dinner is \$7/person.

No nursery provided. ***Register and pay online at ipcmemphis.org.***

Contact Lauren Hales, halesl@churchhealth.org

or Rachel Davis, davisr@churchhealth.org for more information.

DR. JOHN DUNLOP | FINDING GRACE IN THE FACE OF DEMENTIA | JANUARY 25

On Saturday, November 9, Dr. John Dunlop, a well-known author and Christian geriatrician, shared with us his exceptionally helpful insight on aging. If you were not able to attend his Saturday morning seminar or his Foundation Sunday School Class talk, both were recorded and are available now to listen to or download. Dr. Dunlop will be with us again on Saturday morning, January 25, 8:30–noon, in the Fellowship Hall. This seminar will focus on dementia in its several forms and also provide helpful guidance for caregivers. Be sure and save the date! For more on Dr. Dunlop's three appearances at IPC, to listen to his talks from his most recent visit, or to register for the seminar on January 25, visit ipcmemphis.org. His books are also available in the IPC bookstore.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

IPC Medical Professionals Night | January 9 | 6:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

IPC Officers' Retreat | January 9 and 10

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

Dr. John Dunlop: *Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia* | January 25 | 8:30-noon

IPC Scouts Pinewood Derby | January 25

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

Always Ready Youth Conference | February 1 | IPC

Troop and Pack 81 Sunday | February 9

Pathway Weekend for Prospective Members | February 7 and 8

Seniorhigh Retreat | February 15-17 | Nashville

IPC Missions Conference | February 19-23

WOC Spring Conference *with* Paige Benton Brown | March 27-28

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

Music of Christmas

Family Christmas Carol Sing

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

Christmas Eve

Family Service

4:00 p.m. | *Fellowship Hall*

Communion Service

5:30 p.m. | *Sanctuary*



No nursery at either service.



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