



**INDEPENDENT**  
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

## THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

It is three days before Christmas. Three days is not a long time; and yet for those who are waiting, it can seem like an eternity. After all, it was three days between Jesus' death and resurrection; how long did time feel to all creation as it waited for the Lord of glory and the King of creation to emerge from the grave!

Often we find ourselves waiting — how long did the minutes feel as Ruth and Naomi waited for the scenes of Ruth 4 to play out? How long did the months and years feel after the death of Naomi's husband Elimelech? How long did the years feel for Boaz to be alone and then finally to marry Ruth the Moabite? And yet, in God's providence, all of that waiting came to an end in the little town of Bethlehem.

As we hear again of the first coming of Jesus, we are reminded of how much it cost him to redeem us, how great our purchase price was, and above all how amazing the providence was that governed all of God's creatures and their actions to bring all things together at just the right moment. When Jesus declared, "The time is at hand; the kingdom is here; repent and believe the Good News," he was telling us that all God's history had been moving to this moment. The moment when Jesus would be born. The moment when God would send forth his Son. The moment when Jesus would live and die and rise. For us. Hallelujah!

## 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.

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

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN

*Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock*

## THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MEDITATION

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Forest Green*)

arr. Wood

*Jennifer Velázquez, Organist*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 2:10-11

*The Minister:* And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*The Reverend Mike Malone, Assistant Pastor (8:30 a.m.)*

*The Reverend Jeremy Jones, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)*

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 214

## THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

## THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

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

## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Elizabeth McCall Vaughn (8:30 a.m.)*

## THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, merciful Father, every time we rebel against your just rule in our lives, we enslave ourselves to the tyranny of guilt and sin. We exchange freedom for bondage, health for sickness of soul. We are left miserable. Forgive us, we pray. We have not lived out of the new reality of life in Christ. We have not understood the power of the Gospel that brings forgiveness and freedom. Enlighten our minds, transform our hearts, and strengthen our wills so that the power of Christ's resurrection will make us new people. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . . There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." — *Romans 7:24-8:1*

## THE ADVENT HYMN

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

No. 221

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

## THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q and A 103-105

Question and Answer 103

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

*The Congregation:* In the third petition, which is, "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Question and Answer 104

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

*The Congregation:* In the fourth petition, which is, "Give us this day our daily bread," we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

Question and Answer 105

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

*The Congregation:* In the fifth petition, which is, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

## 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

"I Will Light Candles This Christmas"

Arnesen

*James A. Brown, Jr., Director*

I will light candles this Christmas; candles of joy despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch, candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living, candles that will burn all year long.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

## THE SERMON

Ruth 4:1-12 (*pew Bible page 224*)

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

*The Congregation:* Thanks be to God!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Dr. Sean Michael Lucas*

*Senior Pastor*

# SERMON NOTES

## 1. Providence

A. What happened

B. What happens

## 2. Price

A. Won't

B. Will

## 3. Prayer

## THE CLOSING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 201

## THE BENEDICTION

## THE RESPONSE

Veni Emmanuel

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## THE POSTLUDE

“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Manz



# Music of Christmas



## Family Christmas Carol Sing

Tonight | 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Nursery provided

### THE FLOWERS

*The decorations in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
by the IPC Women's Ministry.*

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### BIRTH

*Congratulations to*  
Rheagan and Matthew Schaefer on the birth  
of their daughter, Emmalyn Rhea Schaefer,  
on December 12.

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### DEATHS

*We extend our sympathy to*  
the family of Bob White who died on December 4.

*We extend our sympathy to*  
Courtney and Louis (Hoppy) Dickinson III on the death  
of his mother, IPC charter member Betty Dickinson, on December 11.

## OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 22

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. ....	Family Christmas Carol Sing   Sanctuary



### 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

# Christmas Eve

## Family Service

4:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

## Communion Service

5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary



No nursery at either service.



## OUR CHURCH | DECEMBER 29

Join us for morning worship next Sunday, December 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School classes will not meet that day.

*Note: Children's Church (Kindergarten) will meet at 10:00.*

### 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, the Finance Committee would like to ask you to continue your financial support of IPC. Gifts can be made through the IPC website, IPC app, or Sunday morning offering; dropped off at the church during business hours; sent by mail; or given through donations of publicly traded 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 | THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

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

IPC Fellowship Hall | 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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](http://ipcmemphis.org).**

Contact Lauren Hales, [halesl@churchhealth.org](mailto:halesl@churchhealth.org)  
or Rachel Davis, [davisr@churchhealth.org](mailto:davisr@churchhealth.org) for more information.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Begins Tuesday, January 21*

10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

### IN THE WORD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Begins Thursday, January 23*

6:30 a.m.

### GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare is a seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after the death of a loved one. It's led by people who understand your hurt and want to help you find comfort and encouragement. Beginning January 22, IPC's GriefShare will meet for 13 weeks on Wednesday nights, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., in Room 233.

For more information, contact Dixie Power, [jamesmoorep83@bellsouth.net](mailto:jamesmoorep83@bellsouth.net) or (901) 652-2030.

**DR. JOHN DUNLOP | FINDING GRACE IN THE FACE OF DEMENTIA | JANUARY 25**  
We all want to finish life well. Unfortunately, we do not always understand what that means, and even more, we don't know how to do it. From his years of experience as a geriatrician and student of the scriptures, Dr. John Dunlop offers strategies by which God can be glorified as we age successfully. Dr. John Dunlop is returning to IPC on Saturday, January 25, for the second of his three seminars on aging: *Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia*. Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m.–noon. Continental breakfast will be served. Seminar admission is free, but attendees are asked to sign up in advance. Please visit [ipcmemphis.org](http://ipcmemphis.org) to register.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Seniorhigh Post Christmas Campout** | January 2-3 | Mallard's Croft

**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

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

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

**GriefShare** | Wednesdays, beginning January 22 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**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.*



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