



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

Today, we begin looking at the Gospel of Mark, a journey that will take us through 2018. But we'll only look at the first three verses — which is Mark's version of the Christmas story. Don't believe me? There are clues that connect us to the better known accounts from Matthew and especially Luke: the use of Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3 (which show up in Luke 1:17, 76); the heralding of good news (Luke 2:10); the reference to Messiah, which points to the Davidic throne (Luke 1:34); and especially the “beginning,” the new Genesis, the new world coming (Luke 1:45-56).

And so as we come this morning, looking forward to Christmas Day tomorrow, we worship this one who is the Branch, who comes to spread the knowledge of God as far as the waters cover the seas. We hear and sing Isaiah 11; we boldly “go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born”; we affirm our faith using the words from the Nicene Creed, the greatest of the ecumenical creeds that established our understanding of the person and work of Christ. Above all, we hear this good news that changes everything — Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come and is coming again! Hallelujah!

WELCOME TO INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

As a fellowship of believers, we like to know all who are worshipping with us today, so please fill out the Friendship Pad and pass it down the aisle. If you are a visitor, thank you for joining us. Any questions about our church? We encourage you to ask a member on your aisle, an usher, or a minister for help. They can answer your questions or assist you in finding someone who can.

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 *Pathway Class for Prospective Members*. For more information or to register, please contact the Church office, (901) 685-8206.

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.

Please see an usher if you need a hearing amplification device.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"In dulci jubilo"
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

J.S. Bach

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 11:1-4, 9

The Minister: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

The Congregation: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

The Minister: And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The Minister and

Congregation: They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as waters cover the sea." Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend J. Edward Norton, Associate Pastor (8:30 a.m.)

The Reverend Parker Tenent, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

No. 224

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

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.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. *Amen.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We confess our sins to God because God took care of our sins at just the right time through his Son, Jesus. God's Word says, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Thanks be to God that he is no longer our judge, but our father through Jesus our Savior! — *Galatians 4:4-5*

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

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 Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come, *Amen*.

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION 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 OFFERTORY

“The First Nowell”

arr. Willcocks

Luke Folse, Clarinet

James A. Brown, Jr., Director

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

Choir and Congregation:

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

THE SERMON

Mark 1:1-3 (*pew Bible page 836*)

“Mark’s Christmas Story”

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. New beginning

2. Good news

3. Divine King

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“What Child Is This”

No. 213

THE BENEDICTION

THE RESPONSE

Go Tell It

Choir and Congregation

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

THE POSTLUDE

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Manz



THE FLOWERS

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

BIRTHS

We welcome our newest covenant child:

Emma Katherine Norton,
born December 17, 2017.

DEATHS

Our sympathy to

Rick Allen on the death of his mother,
Minnielee Allen Hale,
on December 14, 2017.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

Tonight | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Luke 2:8-20

"Glory"

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

No nursery provided

OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 24

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
8:30 a.m. Children's Church (Kindergarten)
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Children's Church (Kindergarten)
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

CHURCH OFFICES AND BOOKSTORE CLOSED

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 25,
and Tuesday, December 26. Covenanters' Corner will be closed
December 25-December 30, and January 1-2, 2018.



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45-10:45

Our Sunday School Classes will not meet today or next Sunday, December 31.
Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

CREATING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

8-week Sunday School series

Starting January 7, 2018 | 9:45 a.m. | Chapel

As Christians, we can focus on loving and giving and forget our own limitations. Reverend Ed Norton and Dr. Rich Luscomb (managing partner of Germantown Psychological Associates) will unpack 10 laws of sound boundaries that will bring new health to your relationships.

OUR CHURCH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday evening dinner, teaching and activities will resume on January 10, 2018.

Our dinner menu will be baked ham, black eyed peas, slow cooked turnip greens, mac and cheese, Delta cornbread, blackberry cobbler, and chocolate brownies.

Kid's menu: chicken leg and mac and cheese.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services | 8:30 and 11:00

Sanctuary

No Sunday School

YEAR-END GIVING

The financial gifts of God's people are an essential part of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. As 2017 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. ***All year-end contributions must be postmarked or received by December 31, 2017, to receive the tax benefit in the current year.*** Thank you for your financial support and commitment to IPC.



OUTREACH & MINISTRIES

ONE NEW HUMANITY
God's Mission for a New Memphis
Wednesdays, January 10-31, 2018
6:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

GOOD NEWS FOR A NEW MEMPHIS
IPC Missions Conference
February 4-11, 2018

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR 2018 SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

Athens, Greece

Tanzania, Africa

During the Morning Worship Services

Sunday, January 7, 2018

London, Manchester, Oxford, and Liverpool, England

During the Sunday Evening Praise Service

Sunday, January 21, 2018

IPC STUDENT MINISTRY SUMMER INTERNSHIP

May 21-August 5, 2018

Contact Brad Robson (901-833-2424)

ASAP for more information!

PRAYER MINISTRY

Men's Prayer Breakfast in Fellowship Hall | Tuesdays | 6:30 a.m. (*resumes January 9*)

Come and join a group of men who meet faithfully for a time of prayer in the Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy a good, hot breakfast for \$3.00.

Women's Prayer Time | Room 237 | Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m. (*resumes January 16*)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve Communion Service | Sunday, December 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Church Offices and Bookstore Closed | Monday-Tuesday, December 25-26

Sr. High Ski Trip | December 27-31 | Winter Park, CO

New Year's Eve Worship Services | Sunday, December 31 | 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

Church Offices and Bookstore Closed | Monday-Tuesday, January 1-2, 2018

Commissioning of 2018 Short-Term Mission Trips | Sunday, January 7, 2018 | Morning Worship

Men's Prayer Breakfast Resumes | Tuesday, January 9 | Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Evening Ministries Resume | January 10, 2018

Sunday Evening Praise Resumes | January 14, 2018 | Sanctuary

Women's Bible Study Resumes | Tuesday, January 16, 2018

"Souper Supper" following Sunday Evening Praise | January 21, 2018

Scouts Pinewood Derby Workshop | January 24, 2018 | Room 102

Scouts Pinewood Derby Race Day | January 27, 2018 | Romper Room

Missions Conference | February 4-11, 2018

Women of the Church Brunch | February 13, 2018 | Fellowship Hall

Sr. High Spring Retreat | February 17-19, 2018 | Nashville, TN

Pathway Class Weekend for Prospective Members | February 23-24, 2018

Women of the Church Dinner | March 22, 2018

Women of the Church Spring Retreat | March 23-24, 2018 | The Country Place

TEACHING ELDERS

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Senior Pastor
Rev. Edward Norton
Associate Pastor
Rev. Samuel Husband
Assistant Pastor
Rev. Jeremy Jones
Assistant Pastor
Rev. Mike Malone
Assistant Pastor
Rev. Brad Robson
Pastor of Student Ministries
Rev. Parker Tenent
Assistant Pastor
Rev. Ford S. Williams, Jr.
Pastoral Associate
Rev. John P. Sartelle, Sr.
Senior Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Bill Hogan
Assistant Pastor Emeritus

RULING ELDERS

Mr. Cannon F. Allen
Mr. Matthew G. Buyer
Mr. Richard M. Carter
Mr. William J. Chase Jr.
Mr. Ralph S. DelBove
Dr. Hugh Francis III
Dr. Neumon Taylor Goshorn
Mr. Samuel N. Graham II
Mr. J. Lee Greene Jr.
Mr. Stephen Guenther
Dr. Charles R. Halford
Mr. Bryan A. Hawkins
Mr. John Jurey Howard III
Mr. Nathan W. Kellum
Mr. George G. Leavell
Dr. James R. Mitchum
Mr. William R. Mitchum Jr.
Mr. David R. Neubert
Mr. Matthew J. Olson
Dr. Melvin P. Payne III
Mr. John Philip
Mr. Richard Luther Powell Sr.
Mr. John W. Stokes III
Mr. Terry Michael Washburn
Mr. Adrian Yelverton

DEACONS

Dr. Scott Bartusch
Mr. David Butler
Mr. John W. Chambers Jr.
Mr. Craig A. Christenbury
Mr. Charles Clowers
Mr. John R. Coates
Mr. Glenn W. Cofield
Mr. Duffy Cothran
Mr. John T. Crews Jr.
Mr. Brantley Davidson
Mr. Josh Davis
Mr. John Dorrill
Mr. John J. Dudas
Mr. Michael J. Gabrielleschi
Mr. Robert E. Hicks
Mr. Kevin Holt
Mr. Govan S. Hornor
Mr. Jay Jacks
Dr. John G. Kakales
Mr. William Kay
Mr. James McDonald
Mr. William G. Mueller IV
Mr. Thomas A. Pacello
Mr. Calvin Purcell
Mr. Timothy Rainey
Mr. Alex Ransone
Mr. Chris W. Rogers
Mr. Dudley Schaefer Jr.
Mr. Frederick T. Stukenborg
Mr. Kimbrough Taylor
Mr. Chris Thornton
Mr. Richard B. Vining
Mr. James Dwight Wilder
Mr. Joseph Womack

MINISTRY STAFF

James A. Brown, Jr.
Director of Music and Worship
Pam Brown
Director of Children's Choirs
Hannah Callaway
Assistant Director of Junior High Ministry
Gwen Carpenter
Food Services Manager
Ben Ervin
Audio Visual Coordinator
Mary Virginia Felker
Assistant Director of Senior High Ministry
Stephen Felker
Interim Director of Student Ministries
Leigh Fox
Hospitality Consultant
Lucy Green
Director of Children's Ministry
Paul Halford, Sr.
Director of Operations
Zach Hood
Student Ministries Intern
Rob Howard
Director of Recreation Ministries
Debbie McCallen
Covenanters' Corner Bookstore
Lisa Turner
Director of Women's Ministry
Jennifer Velázquez
Music Ministry Associate | Organist
Suellen Warren
Business Administrator
Rachel Wukasch
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Independent Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of Jesus by gathering for worship, growing in community, and going out in love.

IPC OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Friday

Church's Main Office	901-685-8206
Music Office	901-685-9707
Recreation Office	901-763-3857

COVENANTERS' CORNER BOOKSTORE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
901-763-3932

 @IPCmemphis

 /IndependentPres

 @IPCmemphis



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church