



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

Have you ever benefitted from a fulfilled promise? Someone gave you their word and promised to do something for you. It's not that you doubted their sincerity or their ability to keep their word, but when it actually happened, when what they promised was actually fulfilled, do you remember what you felt? In his book, *Immanuel: Reflections on the Life of Christ*, Michael Card writes:

“Promises are made with words. I may say, ‘I’ll be there at three,’ or ‘I will never leave you.’ And that part of myself that goes with every promise is given to you through my words. Our God is a great maker of promises. His Word, the Bible, is quite simply a collection of the promises He has made to us. In the beginning God told Adam and Eve, I will send someone who will crush the head of the serpent. A promise. Most of the other promises in the Bible — if you look closely at them — are only a variation on that same theme. They concern Jesus, who would come to be known after all as the ‘Promised One’. Through all these promises, God was trying to give something of Himself to Adam and to Israel — and finally to us. The Bible tells us that when the Promised One finally came, the Lord poured all of Himself into Him.”

Today we’re going to see the reaction of two individuals who realized they were in the presence of the Promised One and were overjoyed and amazed at God’s goodness to them. May we join them in their amazement and worship the Great Maker and Keeper of Promises!

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 next *Pathway Class Weekend for Prospective Members*, February 15-16, 2019. For more information or to register, please contact Tameria 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.

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

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Praise Awaits You, God”

Psalm 65: 1-7

Lauda Anima



1. Praise a - waits you, God in Zi - on; vows to you will
2. Bless - ed is the one you've cho - sen, to live near you,
3. You're the trust of all earth's peo - ples to the ends of



be ful - filled. You're the One who hears our pray - ing;
in your courts. We are sat - is - fied with good things
dis - tant seas. By your pow'r you placed the moun - tains;



to you all man - kind will come. E - vil words have
in your house, your ho - ly place. God, you an - swer
you have clothed your - self with strength. You have calmed the



o - ver - whelmed me, but you cov - er all our sins.
us, our Sav - ior, with your awe - some right - eous deeds.
o - cean's roar - ing, tur - moil of the na - tions stilled.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Lauda Anima

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space,
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elizabeth Lane Douglass (8:30 a.m.)

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God of mercy, we humbly confess our need of your pardoning grace. We have sheltered arrogance and pride in our hearts and have believed that our efforts are good enough to earn what only you can provide for us. We have become quick to judge, quick to discount, and quick to anger when our plans, pleasures, and preferences are threatened. We have been slow to offer mercy, both inwardly and outwardly, towards those people you have consciously placed in our lives and called us to love. Forgive our self-righteousness, our self-absorption, and our self-focus. Fix our eyes on Christ and may we become enraptured with him. *Amen.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear now the words of comfort and assurance of God's pardoning grace to those who confess of their sins and trust in Christ for salvation: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." — *Romans 8:1-2*

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q and A 2

The Minister: How many things are necessary for those to know, that one in this comfort may live and die happily?

The Congregation: Three things: First, the greatness of my sin and misery. Second, how I am redeemed from all my sin and misery. Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

Jurey Howard and James Brown, Guitars

Rodgers and Wyse



1. Won - der - ful, mer - ci - ful Sav - ior, Pre - cious Re -
2. Coun - se - lor, Com - fort - er, Keep - er Spir - it we
3. Al - might - y, in - fin - ite Fa - ther faith - ful - ly



deem - er and Friend; who would have thought that a
long to em - brace; you of - fer hope when our
lov - ing your own; here in our weak - ness you



Lamb could res - cue the souls of men.
hearts have hope - less - ly lost the way.
find us fall - ing be - fore your throne.



Oh, you res - cue the souls of men.
Oh, we hope - less - ly lost the way.
Oh, we're fall - ing be - fore your throne.



You are the one that we praise, you are the one we a - dore.



You give the heal - ing and grace our hearts al - ways hun - ger



for, Oh, our hearts al - ways hun - ger for.

Children (Kindergarten) may be dismissed to their worship leader during the last verse.

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

“Sing Praise to God”

arr. Pfautsch

Harrison Howle, Director

Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, The God of love, The God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul he fills And every faithless murmur stills.
To God all praise and glory.

What God's almighty power hath made his gracious mercy keepeth.
By morning glow or evening shade his watchful eye never sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of his might, Lo, all is just and all is right.

The Lord is never far away, But, through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay, Our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band.

Thus all my toilsome way along I shall sing aloud thy praises,
That men may hear the grateful song My unwearied voice now raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, O my heart; Both soul and body bear your part.

THE SERMON

Luke 2:21-38 (*pew Bible pages 857-858*)
The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.
The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

“Slouching Towards Easter”
The Reverend Robert O. Browning
Associate Pastor

SERMON NOTES

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“How Firm a Foundation”

No. 94

THE BENEDICTION

THE RESPONSE

Ode to Joy

Choir and Congregation

Yet it's Christmas, and we greet him, coming even now to save;
For the Lord of our salvation was not captive to the grave.
Out of Egypt came the Savior, man's Immanuel to be –
Christmas shines with Easter glory, glory of eternity.

THE POSTLUDE

“Foundation”

arr. Cherwien

YEAR-END GIVING

The financial gifts of God's people are an essential part of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. As 2018 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 placed in the offering today, or postmarked by tomorrow, December 31, 2018, 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.

THE FLOWERS

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

OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 30

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)

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

There will be no Sunday School classes today.
All classes will reconvene next Sunday, January 6, at 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper will be observed next Sunday, January 6,
at both morning worship services.



OUTREACH & MINISTRIES

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Begins Tuesday, January 15

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

IN THE WORD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Begins Thursday, January 17

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 23, IPC's new 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 or (901) 652-2030.

COME JOIN THE KNITTING MINISTRY

Do you knit or want to learn how?

Join the Knitting Ministry, meeting every Thursday morning,
beginning January 10, from 9:30-11:30, in Room 233 of the church.

Laughter, fun, and fellowship guaranteed. No experience required. We'll teach you!

Can't meet every Thursday? Come or pop in when you can, and knit at home.

Want more information? Call Susan Strong at 901-756-5356,
or email her at susansstrong@bellsouth.net.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Men's Prayer Breakfast in Fellowship Hall | Tuesdays | 6:30 a.m. (*beginning January 8*)

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 | Led by Suzanne Wexler | Bride's Room | Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Church Offices Closed** | December 31-January 1
Bookstore Closed | Reopens January 2
IPC Officers' Retreat | January 4-5
Men's Prayer Breakfast Begins | January 8
Wednesday Evening Teaching and Activities Resume | January 9
Short-Term Mission Trips Interest Meeting | January 13 | 9:30 a.m. | Bride's Room
Women of the Church Bible Study Begins | January 15
In the Word Men's Bible Study Begins | January 17
Sunday Evening Praise Begins | January 20
Wednesday Evening Grace Groups Begin | January 23
Grief Share Begins | January 23
IPC Scouts Pinewood Derby | January 26
Souper Supper | January 27 | Following Sunday Evening Praise
Troop and Pack 81 Scout Sunday | February 3
Pathway Class Weekend for Prospective Members | February 15-16
Sr. High Spring Retreat | February 15-17 | YMCA Nashville, TN
Missions Conference | February 20-24
Women of the Church Dinner | March 21
Women of the Church Spring Retreat | March 22-23 | The Country Place

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Senior Pastor

Rev. Robert Browning
Associate Pastor

Rev. Edward Norton
Associate 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

MINISTRY STAFF

Alison Barger
Director of Communications

James A. Brown, Jr.
Director of Worship and Music Ministries

Pam Brown
Assistant Director of Worship and Music Ministries

Gwen Carpenter
Food Services Manager

Ben Ervin
Audio Visual Coordinator

Mary Virginia Felker
Assistant Director of Senior High Ministry

Stephen Felker
Student Ministry Associate

Leigh Fox
Hospitality Consultant

Emilee Garrett
Children's Choirs Coordinator

Lucy Green
Director of Children's Ministry

Paul Halford, Sr.
Director of Operations

Zach Hood
Director of College Ministry

Rob Howard
Director of Recreation Ministries

Harrison Howle
Choral Assistant

Debbie McCallen
Covenanters' Corner Bookstore

Lisa Turner
Director of Women's Ministry

Jennifer Velázquez
Associate Director of Worship and Music Ministries | Organist

Suellen Warren
Business Administrator

Rachel Wukasz
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

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

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.

 @IPCmemphis

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