



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

The presents are opened. The lights are coming down. The trees are being hauled away. It is the Sunday after Christmas. But we are still in the Christmas season! Hence, a call to worship celebrating the good King: the royal Son to whom is given righteousness and justice and before whom all other kings will bow. The call to worship is followed by a glorious hymn (a text that would have been sung in Geneva!): “Comfort, comfort ye my people; speak ye peace, thus saith our God!” It is a hymn text that may be new to you so perhaps you could take these few moments before worship to read and reflect upon the verses. What glorious truths are contained here. These truths are the reasons for our celebration at this time of the year. These are the truths that make our hearts glad. These are the truths that find their origin in the heart and purpose of God to redeem a people through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Gift of all gifts, our Lord Jesus Christ. As Mark begins his gospel by taking us back to the original ‘beginning’ in order to show us Jesus as the source of ‘new beginnings,’ so John takes us back to the same point, and beyond. John’s ‘Christmas story’ actually begins in the time before time; before ‘in the beginning.’ His purpose is to show us Jesus as the eternal Word by whom, through whom, and for whom all things exist. He wants us to see Jesus as the One who makes sense of the world we inhabit. He wants us to see this eternal Word as incarnate, in-fleshed: “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14). And most of all John wants us to believe in Jesus so that we might have life, for there is no other place to find the life we most deeply desire. “In him was LIFE and the life was the LIGHT of men.” (John 1:4). May God grant us grace this morning to be as wise as the wise men and, with willing feet, ever seek his mercy seat!

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 THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'clock

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION "Middlebury" arr. Wood
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11

The Minister: "Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

The Congregation: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

The Minister: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

The Minister and

Congregation: May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!"

The Reverend Parker Tenent, Assistant Pastor (8:30 a.m.)

The Reverend Samuel Husband, Assistant Pastor (11:00 a.m.)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" No. 197

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE *Lauda Anima*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the everlasting King.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at this time.

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your Word, of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My transgressions and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Go on to subdue my corruptions, and grant me grace to live above them. Let not the passions of the flesh nor lusts of the mind bring my spirit into subjection, but may you rule over me in liberty and power, through Jesus Christ our one Lord, Mediator, Redeemer, and Friend. *Amen.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We rejoice at this season and at all times because God has given to us his greatest gift: the gift of his Son “who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, ‘let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” — *1 Corinthians 1:30-31*

THE HYMN OF ADORATION

“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

No. 230

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

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q and A 26

The Minister: What do you believe when you say, “I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?”

The Congregation: That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son.

I trust him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world.

He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

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

“Be Thou My Vision”
Randal Rushing, Director

arr. C. Young

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art;
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my Great Father and I thy true son;
O thou in me dwelling And I with thee one.

High King of Heaven my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys O bright heav'n's sun!
Heart of my own heart whatever befall,
O still be my vision thou Ruler of all.

THE SERMON

John 1:1-6 (*pew Bible page 886*)

“In Him was LIFE!”

The Reverend Mike Malone

Assistant Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. Powerful

2. Personal

3. Present

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

No. 226
(stanzas 1-4)

THE BENEDICTION

THE RESPONSE

Choir and Congregation

No. 226
(stanza 5)

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

THE POSTLUDE

“The Day of Gladness Now Appears”

J.S. Bach

THE FLOWERS

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

OUR CHURCH TODAY | DECEMBER 31

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)

CHURCH OFFICES AND BOOKSTORE CLOSED

The Church Offices and Covenanters' Corner Bookstore will be closed
Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 2.

COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper will be observed next Sunday, January 7, 2018,
at both morning worship services.

Join us in celebrating
REVEREND ED NORTON'S 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY
AT INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
There will be a reception honoring Ed and Sally on
Sunday morning, January 14, in the Rotunda, immediately
following the 11:00 a.m. service. Please stop by to let them
know how much they are loved and appreciated.



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45-10:45

Our Sunday School Classes will not meet today.
Classes will resume next 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.

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Jonah: You Can't Outrun Grace

February 20-April 24, 2018

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

In this 8-session video Bible study,
pastor and best-selling author Paul David Tripp
teaches how we are more like Jonah than unlike him.

We run from God. He chases us down
and gives us a second chance —and then
invites us to be used for a glorious purpose
in His kingdom!

For more information, contact

Lisa Turner, lturner@ipcmemphis.org.

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

Sr. High Ski Trip Returns | December 31

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

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