



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 73, No. 49

December 6, 2020

Service for the Lord's Day

eleven o'clock

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, Thou hast opened our eyes to behold the light of a new day. Open our spiritual eyes that we may see Thee and sing Thy praise. Give us a song to Thy grace--a song that shall rise in the morning and a song that the night shall not overcome. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Come, Savior of the Gentiles".....Johann Sebastian Bach

The service of worship begins with the music of the organ. Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, His peace.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Dr. Goyer

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATHJessica and George Lane
and their family

INTROIT - "Savior of the Nations, Come".....

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

From God's heart the Savior speeds; back to God his pathway leads; out to van-
quish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

*HYMN 96 - “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry” WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....Rev. Clayton

Unison: O God of mercy and grace, hear our prayers as we confess our need for forgiveness even though we struggle to acknowledge why. We cannot admit when we are sometimes wrong. We hide behind our bravado. We cover ourselves in hubris and self righteousness. Yet we are quick to blame, to find a scapegoat, to play the victim. Reveal to us when we play the fool and by your Spirit help us repent and turn back to you in the name of the one who comes to prepare the way, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service*)

Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,

Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* GLORIA PATRI (from *The Independent Service*)

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi-rit:

As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and will be for

ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Mark 1:1-13

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - LOOK WHO'S OUT IN THE WILDERNESS! .. Dr. Goyer

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED (*In unison*).....Rev. Clayton

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF 2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS..... Mrs. Goudreau

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please continue to remember to support the church. Even during this time when in-person attendance is limited, we do have basic necessary bills to cover. Offerings may be submitted online by clicking [here](#), by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts.

* The Offertory Statement

* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....

OLD HUNDREDTH

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – “And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah* ...

George Frideric Handel

Come, my way And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. *Isaiah 40:5*

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE.....Rev. Seamon

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

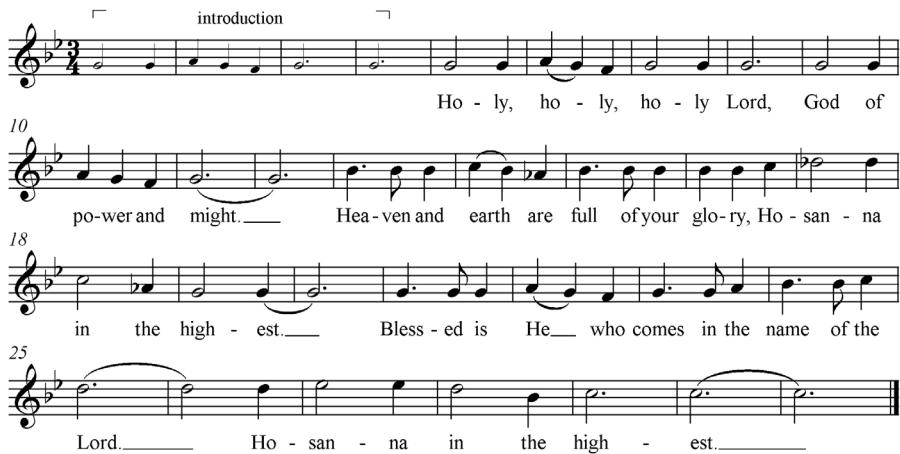
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

SANCTUS (from *The Independent Service*)

introduction



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
10 po- wer and might. Hea- ven and earth are full of your glo- ry, Ho - san - na
18 in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the
25 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The minister continues in prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (from *The Independent Service*)



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain!

The minister continues in prayer.

AMEN (from *The Independent Service*)



A - men, A - men, A - - - men!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*In unison*)

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, for ever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Ave Verum Corpus” W. A. Mozart
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie, O Jesu, fili Mariae. Miserere nobis. Amen.

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed: Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death! O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on us. Amen.

14th-century chant attributed to Pope Innocent VI

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

*HYMN 106 - "Prepare the Way, O Zion"
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

1 Pre - pare the way, O zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near! Let
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove. His
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace, and
ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. Greet
rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. Lift
ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. All
One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry. O
high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing. O
lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing. O
blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"Camille Saint-Saëns

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S ONLINE VISITORS!

We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please provide contact information to Cindy Shaw at 933-3696 or cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH.

Even during this time when in-person attendance is limited, we do have basic necessary bills to cover. Offerings may be submitted online, by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts.

CELEBRATE ADVENT AT HOME this year with IPC. In a time when our holiday traditions look a bit different, our hope is to prepare you and your family for Christmas in a current and meaningful way. During Advent season, join fellow IPC members each week using the provided liturgy guide to light a candle on your wreath and participate in reading, wondering, sharing, praying, and singing. Visit our Advent at Home page to find additional activities and resources at ipc-usa.org > advent.

IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: You are invited to enjoy the sounds of the holiday season with the IPC choir and a small string orchestra at 4 pm on Sunday, December 13. Hear works by Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Frideric Handel, Morten Lauridsen, and more. Watch and listen on YouTube or Facebook (search "IPC Birmingham"). Livestream only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

71ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR: Find inspiration as four Birmingham families open the doors to their festively decorated homes for virtual visitors. This year a ticket provides access to a virtual tour. You will be able to watch as many times as you would like Dec. 11-31. Proceeds benefit STAIR of Birmingham, First Light, Children's Fresh Air Farm, and IPC Community Ministries. Purchase tickets by Dec. 11 at ipcholidayhouse.com.

STOCKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOLARS: Provide Christmas stockings for graduates of Children's Fresh Air Farm's Summer Learning Program. Stocking stuffers are needed based on age and gender, and you can select one or more camper (or their siblings). All stocking stuffers need to be dropped off in the church parlor by Dec. 15. We request a \$25 limit on each stocking. Sign-up and learn more online at: ipc-usa.org/connect.

GIVING TREE: Our annual alternative Christmas gift opportunity is now available until Sunday, December 20. In the COVID-19 pandemic reality, IPC Social Services has given unprecedented food and financial assistance to our neighbors who are struggling with food, shelter, utilities, transportation, and medical needs. All Giving Tree gifts this year will go to IPC Social Services to support this ministry. To give, visit us online at ipc-usa.org/connect or mail your check to the church (memo: "Giving Tree") On the form, you can indicate how many cards you would like, and we will make cards available in the IPC Parlor. Thank you for your generosity this Advent season.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

IPC CHOIR FUND: In memory of Merrill Eugene Compton, Jr.

Participants in Today's Services

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Pastor
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor of Adult & Comm. Ministries
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Mrs. Catherine Goudreau, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, CFAF
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Members of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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