

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Grant us the gift of Thy Spirit, O great God. May He be to us the Spirit of truth, for we would know. May He be to us the Spirit of power, for we would do. And may our prayer be so full of willingness that even now we shall receive Him. *from Beginning the Day by Dr. Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Prelude on *Divinum Mysterium*" T. Frederick H. Candlyn
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 WREATHTommy Bice,
Ken Northrup, and Family

INTROIT - "Savior of the Nations, Come"
NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

***HYMN 82** - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

1. Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2. Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, Born a child and yet a King,
From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, Joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....Rev. Seamon

Unison: **O God give us grace to know that our lives are lived over against the perfection of your will. In the light of that knowledge help us to think, speak, and act. Grant us, Lord, that all who know your law and your will may not be disobedient to the heavenly vision. This we ask by the power of your grace in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**
Reinhold Niebuhr

A period of silence for personal confession.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

* GLORIA PATRI (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

ANTHEM - "Motet for the Annunciation" Frank Ferko
Today is the fountainhead of our salvation, and the revelation of an eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces this grace: Therefore let us exclaim with him to the Mother of God, Rejoice, O Woman full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Liturgical text from the Troparion of the Feast of the Annunciation

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Luke 1:46b-55
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARYDr. Goyer

The Response to the Word

* APOSTLES' CREEDRev. Clayton
I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy
catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

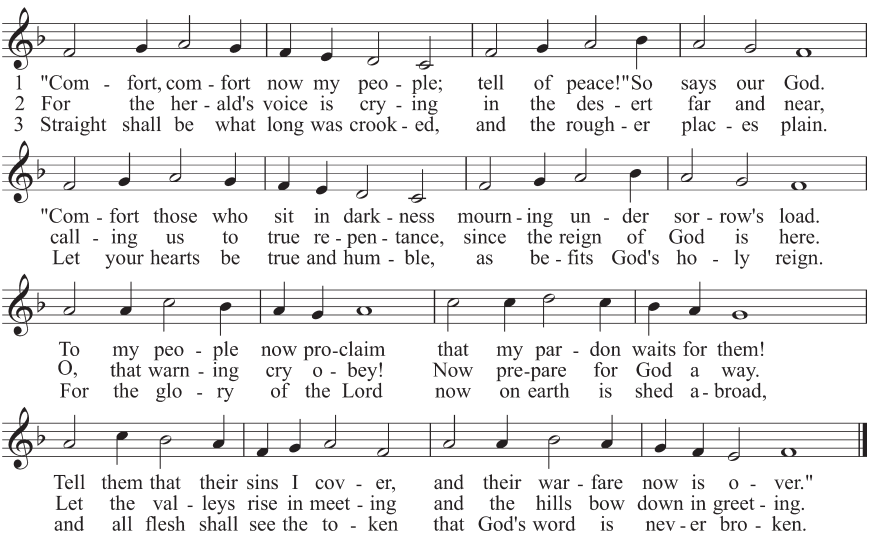
* The Prayer of Dedication
The Offertory Anthem – "Magnificat in A".....Herbert Sumson
My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shew'd strength with his arm, he hath scatter'd the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath fill'd the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he promis'd to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. 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. *Luke 1:46-55*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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, for ever. Amen.

The Sending

- * HYMN 87 - "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" GENEVAN 42



- * CHARGE
- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"Craig Phillips
- * *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.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Herbert and Peggy Stockham, Walter and Martha Rountree, and Herbert and Virginia Stockham. THE FLOWERS in the Children's Chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alfred Shook Perry and Catherine Shook Perry Smithwick. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Auddis Marion "Buddy" Walker, Jr.; Staff Sergeant as a nose gunner on the B-24 Liberators in the 15th Air Force, 485th Bomber Group, WWII; father of Marion Walker.

IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: You are invited to enjoy the sounds of the holiday season with the IPC choir and a small string orchestra today at 4 pm. 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.

AN UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: In order to respect the overburdened health care system as well as the health of our congregation, clergy, choir, families and community, the Re-opening Task Force, backed up by the Worship committee, have collectively decided that we will not be able open IPC's Sanctuary for Christmas worship this year. We invite you to join us for the following virtual Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24:

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS: Honor the birth of the Christ-child with our Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. IPC's clergy and full choir will safely participate in the traditional Christmas Eve service with candle lighting and carols as well as traditional readings, music, and prayers in celebration of the season. Although the service will not be available for in-person participation, it will be made available to all on IPC's Facebook page and YouTube channel at 4 pm on Christmas Eve. Look for more information coming soon if you would like to light a candle with us from home.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE: A virtual worship experience will be offered in lieu of our traditional noon Nativity Service. Through this at-home family service, we invite you to join us wherever you are for the lighting of the Advent Wreath, Susan Clayton's reading of "T'was the Night Before Jesus," and music and prayers from the children of IPC. The link to this service will be available to all.

CELEBRATE ADVENT AT HOME this year. In anticipation of Christmas, we invite you to participate in Advent at Home with us using the provided liturgy guide to light a candle on your wreath and participate in reading, wondering, sharing, praying, and singing.. In a time when our holiday traditions look a bit different, our at-home Advent activities are designed to keep stress low and encourage family connection in a meaningful way. Join fellow IPC members prepare for Christmas with the resources available at ipc-usa.org > advent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

71ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR: This weekend four Birmingham families opened the doors to their festively decorated homes for virtual visitors. Tickets to a private virtual tour are still available and you will be able to watch as many times as you would like until Dec. 31. Proceeds benefit STAIR of Birmingham, First Light, Children's Fresh Air Farm, and IPC Community Ministries. Purchase tickets at ipcholidayhouse.com.

STOCKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOLARS: If you signed up to provide a Christmas stockings for graduates of Children's Fresh Air Farm's Summer Learning Program, stocking stuffers should be dropped off in the church parlor by Dec. 15. Additional information can be found 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 leave your cards in the designated pick-up bin outside the Parlor door in the cloister. Thank you for your generosity this Advent season.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

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

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mr. James W. "Jimmy" Shepherd, Sr. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William R. "Bill" Culbertson; Mr. William F. Edmonds; Mr. James W. "Jimmy" Shepherd, Sr.; and Mrs. Sue C. White. . (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Judge James H. Hancock, Sr.

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
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Members of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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www.ipc-usa.org