



Independent  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 78, No. 1

January 5, 2025

Service for the Lord's Day

8:45 am & 11 am

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Like a child in a forest, beguiled by a thousand mysteries I follow the gleam of Thy going. So much I have learned and yet so little – so much lying before. Lead on, O infinite Guide. I follow. Amen. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE ..... David Holden

*"Improvisation on We Three Kings"*

*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.*

INTROIT ..... George Thalben-Ball

*"As many are led by the Spirit of God"*

As many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Rev. Newton

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

All: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

One: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

All: **Proclaim God's praise among the nations.** *Isa.*

*60:1-3*

\*HYMN 147 ..... THE FIRST NOWELL

*"The First Nowell"*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison:** God of grace and truth, too often we diligently seek you but chase the wrong guiding stars. We spot ambition rising from the horizon and hitch our lives to its restless instruction. We glimpse wealth and hope its light will brighten the gloomy corners of our lives. We chase after affection, giving our treasure to those who care little for it. So much that dazzles cannot satisfy the deep need within us. Forgive us lost pilgrims. Draw us toward the star of your way that forever provides warmth and illumines the path to peace.

*A period of silence for personal confession.*

\* KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service* by Jeff McLelland)

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

\* DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

\* THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
 People: **And also with you.**  
 Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.  
*Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."*

\* GLORIA PATRI (from *The Independent Service*)

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi-rit:  
 6 As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and will be for  
 9 ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Seamon

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ..... Rev. Newton

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible, p.NT1)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

*During the singing of this HYMN, children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for child care.*

\* HYMN 152 .....PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

SERMON ..... Rev. Seamon  
 "Epiphany"

## The Response to the Word

\* NICENE CREED.....Rev. Newton

**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.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.*

\* The Offertory Statement

\* The Doxology (*HYMN 606*)..... OLD HUNDREDTH  
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem..... Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
“Behold a Star from Jacob Shining” from *Christus*

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is he, The promise of the coming day, Beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, Hail the brightness of thy rising. *Numbers 24:17*

## The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE.....Rev. Long

### 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** (*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” ..... Wolfgang Amadeus 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.*

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 attr. Pope Innocent VI*

“Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love” ..... H. Kenn Carmichael,  
*arr. Clayton D. Lein and John Weaver*

Bring we the frankincense of our love to the feet of the holy Child, ever remembering God’s great gift of a love that is undefiled. Bring we the myrrh of humility to the throne of the Son of God, ever recalling the purity Of His life when the earth He trod. Ever secure in His changelessness, Though the kingdoms of earth may fall, bring we the gold of our faithfulness To the King who is Lord of all. Holy the Infant and holy the mother and holy and precious the gifts that we bring, Praise to the Father and praise to the Spirit And praise to Christ Jesus our King.

*H. Kenn Carmichael*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## The Sending

- \*HYMN 150 .....DIX  
“As with Gladness Men of Old”
- \*BENEDICTION..... Rev. Seamon
- \*POSTLUDE ..... Louis-Claude Daquin  
“Noël Suisse”
- \*CONGREGATION STANDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME TO IPC!** Please join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor immediately following the service where we can tell you more about our church. We look forward to meeting you! For more information, please contact Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org).

**THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Law Lamar, U.S. Army, WWII, recipient of the Purple Heart; grandfather of Carl Albright; great-grandfather of Carl IV, David and Bibb Albright; and uncle of Mary Kay Klyce.

**TABLE WORSHIP SERVICE IS BACK AT 5:00 PM:** Join us for the Table service in Highland Hall this evening. Rev. David Seamon will be preaching.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT** dinner and programming for adults and children resume on January 8; Youth Midweek begins on January 22. Find more details on the Ministries tab at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

**SPRING CHILDREN’S MUSICAL REHEARSALS** start on Wednesday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m. K5 - 6th Grade are invited to join us to practice for “It’s Cool in the Furnace.” We will enjoy the adventures of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego while hearing about how wonderful our God is! Volunteers are also needed. Register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**IPC YOUTH:** It’s time to register for our Gatlinburg trip from January 17 to January 20. Youth 7th-12th grade are welcome. Find additional information and registration online or in the youth email!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Biblical Explorations with Rev. Susan Clayton and Dr. Jeff Leonard are thrilled to announce a nine-day trip to Rome and Assisi next summer traveling May 31 - June 8, 2025. Let us know if you are interested! Find our interest form at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**2025 ANNUAL GIVING:** We are so grateful for those who have given generously to support the mission of Jesus Christ at IPC. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, the time is now to join us in responding to Christ’s call for our church. Find pledge cards at the reception desk, or make an online pledge by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

## **SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED**

**ADVENT FLOWER FUND:** In memory of Clinton Williams Taylor; Mr. & Mrs. George M. Taylor, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Clyde R. Brown; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Claypool Howell, Jr.; and Miss Lottice Howell.

**CLINTON TAYLOR FUND:** In memory of Hudson Joseph Meek.

**FOOD PANTRY:** In memory of Ann Monk.

**SOCIAL SERVICES & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:** In memory of John Klyce.

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### **Participants in Today's Services**

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45 am) Jessica Long (11:00 am) Mary Hanson Borders

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Independent Presbyterian Church

3100 Highland Avenue

Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

Phone: (205)933-1830; Fax: (205)933-1836

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

**[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)**