

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Today is called the Birthday of the Lord, when the Wisdom of God showed Himself as an infant, and the Word of God spoke the voice of flesh without words. However, that hidden divinity was made known to the Magi with a heavenly witness, and was announced to the shepherds with an angelic voice. And so, as is our yearly custom, we celebrate this day—the day on which the prophecy was fulfilled which says: “*Truth sprang forth from the earth, and righteousness looked down from heaven*” (Ps. 85:11). The Truth which is in the lap of the Father sprang forth from the earth to be in the lap of a mother also. The Truth in which the universe is contained sprang forth from the earth to be carried in the hands of a woman. The Truth which by which the happiness of Angels is unfailingly nourished sprang forth from the earth to be nursed by breast of flesh. The Truth for whom heaven is not enough sprang forth from the earth to be placed in a manger. For whose good came such sublimity in such humility? Certainly He came for no good of His own, but for our great good—if we believe. Wake up! God became man for you!

— *St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*

NURSERY

Nurseries are available for children three-years-old and under. They are located down the hallways behind the pulpit.

POINSETTIAS

Those individuals who donated poinsettias for the Christmas season are invited to take them home at the conclusion of tonight’s service. Please begin with those located in the aisles.

Musicians:

Miss Grace Garnett – piano

Mr. Jonathan Van Eck – cello

Mr. John Parrish McLean – trombone

Mrs. Jacquelyn Martinez – flute

Dr. Todd Walker – trumpet

The Pastoral & Educational Staff

Terry L. Johnson.....Senior Minister.....	421-8100
Ronald H. Parrish.....Associate Minister	421-8102
Timothy P. Foster.....Associate Minister	421-8103
Timothy D. Shaw.....Assistant Minister	570-439-2275
Evan J. Gear.....Assistant Minister	540-793-2018
Melwin Issac.....Pastoral Assistant	864-320-5149
Joshua M. Espinosa.....Director of Administration.....	421-8111
Jane H. Boatright.....Director of Nursery and Women’s Program.....	706-207-4288
Francis V. Daniell.....Director of Camps and Missions Outreach.....	421-8118
Amy R. Martin.....Director of Children’s Program	421-8106
A. Paul Rodgers, Jr.....Director of Youth and Family	421-8116
Kathryn Van Eck.....Director of Music.....	421-8107

Church Office

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.....	236-3346
E-Mail:	info@ipsav.org
Website:.....	www.ipsav.org
Financial Secretary.....	421-8104
Senior Minister’s Secretary.....	421-8100
I.P.C. Sexton:.....	421-8112

Historic Independent Presbyterian Church of Savannah



Painted by Gerard Van Honthorst, 1622

Christmas Eve Service December 24, AD 2019

207 Bull Street • Savannah, Georgia 31401 • 912/236-3346 • www.ipsav.org

THE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

FIVE THIRTY O’CLOCK

The Prelude - “Prelude on Puer Nobis” Aaron David Miller

The Silent Prayer Upon Entering the Sanctuary

Almighty God, who has given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit, which we beseech You to send forth more and more into our hearts, as a testimony of Your fatherly love to us, and to fill us with fervent love towards You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem - “The Infant King” arr. Larter
Tune: Basque Noel

The Sanctuary Choir
Soloist: Dr. Kathryn Van Eck

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where He is lying;
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, gently sleeping, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping;
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, sweetly sleeping, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King;
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing.
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now awaking, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the Infant King,
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering death, its bondage breaking.
Sing lullaby!

+ **The Welcome and Announcements**

+***The Hymn** - #208 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Adeste Fideles

* **The Invocation and Prayer of Praise**

* **The Nicene Creed** (*Hymnal*, Page 846)

I believe in 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 men and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit 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 sits on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come

again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceeds 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

+***The Christmas Gloria Patri** Regent Square
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.

The Christmas Prayer

The Reading of Scripture - Isaiah 40:1–11 (pew Bible pp. 599–600);
Matthew 2:1–12 (pew Bible pp. 807–808)

The Hymn - #204 “Away in a Manger” Mueller
Stanza 1 - remain seated; Children come forward.

The Children’s Story-Sermon Rev. Ronald Parrish

The Hymn - #204 “Away in a Manger” Mueller
Stanza 3 - remain seated; Children return.

The Anthem - “Thou Who Wast Rich” Molly Ijames
French Carol

The Sanctuary and Youth Choirs
Piano: Miss Grace Garnett

Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger did surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor
All for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou Who art God beyond all praising
All for love’s sake becamest man.
Stooping so low, but sinners raising;
Heav’nwards by Thine eternal plan
Thou Who art God beyond all praising
All for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou Who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou would have us be.
Thou Who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King we worship Thee.

* **The Psalter** - Psalm 98:4–9 (*Psalter*, Page 83) Desert

The Collection

The Anthem - “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Arr. Dan Forrest
St. Lewis

The Sanctuary and Youth Choirs

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wond’rous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell!
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Terry Johnson
“WHAT IS LIFE?”

* **The Benediction**

* **The Hymn** - #195 “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” Antioch
Recessional begins during the first stanza.

Recessional to Front Lawn for Caroling

After the ministers recess, carolers may exit out of the three doors at the back of the church and the north pulpit door. Proceed to the front grass area for the lighting on the candles. Singing will begin when the entire congregation has had opportunity to exit the building.