



THE CARILLON

FOR UNTO US
A CHILD is BORN!

THE SEASON of REMEMBRANCE

BY HOWARD THURMAN

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:30am in the Parlor

During the 4 weeks of Advent the group will be looking at contemporary and current understandings of Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Organ Concert, see page 2

Saturday, December 10, 6:15pm

Music Director Jon Riss plays the organ works of César Franck in celebration of his 200th birthday.

Greening of the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 17, 12pm

All are encouraged to help beautify our sanctuary. Bring gloves and clippers if you have them.

Messiah Concert, see page 2

Sunday, December 18, 4:00pm

IPC presents the Christmas portion of the Messiah, Hallelujah chorus, Worthy is the Lamb with reception to follow. Suggested donation: \$20/person, \$40/family.

Christmas Eve

Outdoor Family Service

December 24, 3pm

Join us on the front lawn as we hear again the story of Christmas through song, Scripture, and the help of our children. In inclement weather, this service will be moved into the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

December 24, 9pm

We gather in the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of Christ through our worship with music from the chancel choir, the story of the birth of Jesus, and the traditional lighting of candles. This service will be available as a live-stream.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 10:30am

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church joins us for a joyful service with communion as we worship the God who has come to dwell with us in Jesus Christ.

New Year's Day Worship

at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

January 1, 10am (note worship time)

Enter the new year worshipping with the family of God next door at St. Barnabas, as we fix our hopes on a God about to do a new thing among us.

*Again and again, it comes:
The Time of Recollection,
The Season of Remembrance.
Empty vessels of hope fill up again;
Forgotten treasures of dreams
reclaim their place;
Long-lost memories come trooping
back to me.
This is my season of remembrance,
My time of recollection.*

*Into the challenge of my anguish
I throw the strength of all my hope:
I match the darts of my despair with
the treasures of my dreams;
Upon the current of my heart
I float the burdens of the years;
I challenge the mind of death with
my love of life.
Such to me is the Time of Recollection,
The Season of Remembrance.*

Again and again it comes, writes Thurman. There is a time for everything and a season for everything under the sun.

Again, Advent is upon us, inviting us to wait, to repent, to prepare, to worship and adore the newborn king. Advent interrupts our ordinary days and our Ordinary Time. It's a time to look back and remember the past year. It's a time to look forward, to peer around cosmic corners and catch glimpses of what God's world looks like when Christ returns to earth to finish the renewal project. But Advent is also about now, this present moment, and how, as Thurman says, "Empty vessels of hope fill up again/forgotten treasures of dreams reclaim their place."

Advent is a time for our present moment to be altered by the hope of the future in Jesus and by the past faithfulness of God. Advent is the time where hope fights back, recovers ground lost, stakes claim to the territory of your heart.

Advent is the time when a new day dawns upon us, when the sun of righteousness comes with healing in his wings, when our world is altered and changed because God is with us, near us, now.

Wherever you find yourself this Advent, we cling to the hope promised by the prophet Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined" (9:2).

May the blessings of Christ be with you and your loved ones during this holiday season!

Grace and Peace, Rev. Blaine Crawford



CÉSAR FRANCK *Organ Concert*

A celebration of César Franck on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, our Director of Music & Organist **Jon Riss** will present the complete major organ works of **César Franck** in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. Best known outside of the organ world for his Symphony in D minor and motets (particularly *Panis Angelicus*), Franck equaled his music compositional contributions to the music world with his contributions as a teacher. A Professor at the Paris Conservatoire from 1872 until his death in 1890, his pupils included the composers Ernest Chausson, Vincent d'Indy, Henri Duparc, Guillaume Lekeu, Albert Renaud, Charles Tournemire and Louis Vierne. Many a church organist in France can trace their lineage somehow to 'Père Franck.'

This December 10 concert will start at 6:15 PM and run for approximately two hours and fifteen minutes.

MESSIAH

CHRISTMAS PORTION

Irvington Presbyterian's MESSIAH

By Mary Bongiovi, Chair of Worship & Music Committee.



IPC HAS HAD A LONG TRADITION of a strong music program. In the mid-1990s, under the direction of then music director F. Anthony Thurman, IPC offered a program of selected arias, airs, and choruses from Handel's *Messiah* to the church and the community. With the arrival of Jonathan Riss as music director in November 2016, we presented the *Christmas portion* plus *Hallelujah chorus* and *Worthy is the Lamb*.

In advance of Jon's arrival I decided I was going to sing in the program instead of helping with the reception following it. I had attended many Handel's *Messiah* and naively thought this was ample preparation to sing the oratorio. I joined choir practices with the interim director and during the first chorus we reviewed I was absolutely lost! I went home, went on YouTube and practiced the soprano part with a lovely woman who had recorded the whole thing. I did better in practice, remaining on at least the same page as the rest of the chancel choir. I remember feeling so confident when we finally sat in the chancel to sing. It was hard to keep my focus with Sam Hepler singing bass right behind my seat! Goodness, all these distractions. Nevertheless, I carried on, only getting lost during part of the *Hallelujah chorus* and missing many but not all of the Amens at the end of *Worthy is the Lamb* chorus during the first performance in 2016. In 2017 I did better hitting more hallelujahs and amens than the year before resulting in a celebration afterwards with Chris Omark who joined in the alto section. In 2018, I was confident and invited a coworker. In 2019, I had the joy of having my daughter Sarah singing as well. We missed two years of *Messiah* due to the pandemic but now we are back!

This year's program will be held December 18th at 4PM. As part of our open music ministry, members and friends of IPC who do not regularly sing with the chancel choir will be participating. As well, we have invited our sisters and brothers in Christ from Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, St. Barnabas, Episcopal Church, Aldersgate Methodist Church and South Presbyterian Church to join us. Our hope is to make this an ecumenical Rivertowns choir for our local congregations, neighbors and friends to enjoy.

A suggested donation of \$20 per person and \$40 per family will be collected at the door. A reception will follow arranged by the Deacons, Presbyterian Women, Membership and Fellowship and Worship and Music Committees. Please join us for our post pandemic performance as we "Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

Stream us on YouTube.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@irvingtonpresbyterianchurc1232/stream>

Christmas Joy Offering

WHEN JESUS WAS BORN AMONG US, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace, and salvation to his people. In all our vulnerabilities, struggles, and triumphs, Jesus became one of us—leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

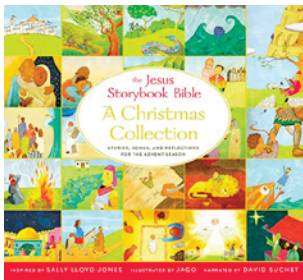
Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us—past, present, and future—who have pointed us to God. Through this offering, we honor and celebrate retired pastors and their families who now find themselves in critical financial need. Through this offering, we also support emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in serve to the world God loves.

This special offering will be received in worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; gifts can also be made on-line through Realm.

Advent/Christmas Resources for Parents (*and other adults!*)

OUR HOPE AND PRAYER is that children will be nurtured in their faith at home, as well as at church; by parents (and other adults in their lives), as well as by Sunday School teachers. After all, those teachers have, at best, a window of about 40 minutes per week, so parents are key to laying a solid Christian foundation and helping children and youth grow in their faith. Not to mention that we all promise at each child's Baptism: to guide and nurture these young ones, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ.

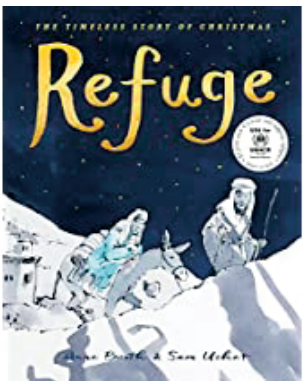
For parents and others (I know first-hand), it is not always easy among busy schedules, to start conversations about Jesus, or scripture. But there are myriad opportunities, if we are open to them, that can provide an opening to talk about various aspects of God, and faith, and issues in the world around us. One of the easiest is through books. Here, starting with some Christmas selections, and periodically in the future, we will provide some reading recommendations.



THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

A Christmas Collection: Stories, Songs, and Reflections for the Advent Season
Inspired by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Jago, narrated by David Suchet
(ages 3-9)

This book is based on Lloyd-Jones wonderful re-tellings of Biblical stories that emphasize God's love for children and connect Jesus with all of scripture; and Jago's beautiful illustrations, which are child-friendly but not silly. Interactive (battery-operated), the Christmas stories are supplemented with narration, and excerpts of four Christmas carols. An excellent way to introduce children to the Biblical themes of Advent and Christmas.



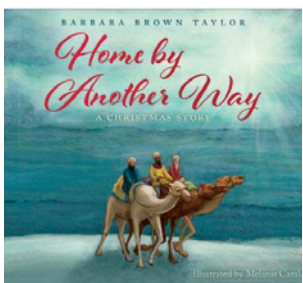
REFUGE*

By Anne Both and Sam Usher
(ages 4-8)

This book offers a moving and, for many children, new perspective on the nativity story, relating the struggle of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus as refugees traveling in a strange land, seeking the protection and kindness of strangers. A good early connection to discussions about God's special care for refugees and foreigners.

HOME BY ANOTHER WAY*

By Barbara Brown Taylor, illustrated by Melanie Cataldo
(ages 6-9)



A miracle, a journey, and a humble birth, as seen through the eyes of 'outsiders'. Episcopal priest and author, Taylor weaves a thoughtful story around the Biblical passage – providing insights into who these travelers were, why they came, what they found, and why they went home by another way.

**IPC has a copy of starred books, which are available to borrow.*

For a more extensive list of Christmas books from Hearts and Minds Bookstore, contact Lisa at lisa.niven@irvingtonpresbychurch.org.

Visit us at irvingtonpresbychurch.org

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IRVINGTON Presbyterian is called by Jesus Christ to glorify God in worship through word and song, grow as disciples through study, engage in mission to the world, joyfully extend hospitality and fellowship to all and, with God's help, to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

We seek to be a place of healing, where individuals can feel safe and find sanctuary from their own hurts, and can then turn that healing spirit outwards, to help others. We believe God is calling each of us to ministry, and we seek to be a place where each member will feel helped and supported in discovering their gifts.

The CARILLON is published quarterly by the Irvington Presbyterian Church to inform congregation and friends of church activities, invite participation in our Christian fellowship and spread the good news of the Gospel.

Submissions for The Carillon are due the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please submit completed articles to **Melissa Brown** or the church office.

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