



IPC MESSENGER

HOLIDAY EDITION

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DECEMBER 2025 – JANUARY 2026

Year-End, Year-Beginning Recommendations

TERRY L. JOHNSON

As we approach the New Year, I would like to share with you some helps for nurturing your Christian life and coping with our rapidly changing world. What follows are some of the most helpful sources for me.

Books

Let's start with what I consider *the* all-time spiritual classic, William Gurnall's *The Christian in Complete Armour*. At 1,100 pages, his 17th-century prose is not for the faint of heart. Yet for the capacity to sustain sharp, crisp, fresh, illuminating, challenging, inspiring insights page after page from start to finish, it is extraordinary.

Already read that? Very good. Then graduate up to Stephen Charnock's *Existence and Attributes of God*. All of the above comments about Gurnall apply to Charnock as well, also for 1,100 pages. Read three pages a day for a year, and you will have done it and given your soul a feast for a lifetime. For the less ambitious, try George Swinnock's *The Incomparableness of God*. It is as equally compelling as Gurnall and Charnock but not as daunting at under 200 pages. Or if one would rather a modern author, J. I. Packer's *Knowing God*. Read by me as a college senior, it changed the direction of my life and ministry. I regard it as the Christian book of the 20th century.

On another note, in anticipation of America's 250th anniversary in 2026, read Rick Atkinson's trilogy on the American Revolution, two of which are now in print: *The*

British are Coming and *The Fate of the Day*. Atkinson is a master of historical narrative.

Sermons

I don't listen much to sermons. I used to though. I have four preachers whose sermons/lectures that I highly prize.

First, John MacArthur on 1 John or 1 Corinthians. These were life changing for me as an undergraduate at the University of Southern California. He introduced me to verse-by-verse expository preaching which for me thereafter became the norm for public preaching. MacArthur is master of biblical exposition.

Second, J. A. "Alec" Motyer. His Trinity College lectures and Keswick Convention (UK) sermons on Isaiah and Exodus are profoundly insightful. He was a master of biblical Hebrew yet also an anointed expository with an Irishman's fire in his belly.

Third, Martyn Lloyd-Jones sermons from Westminster Chapel, London, preached from the 1930s to the late 1960s, are the most powerful sermons I've ever heard. He completely overwhelms me. Hundreds and hundreds of his sermons are available online.

Fourth, R. C. Sproul's lectures and sermons. His 45-minute (not the 30 minute) sermon on "The Holiness of God" is a masterpiece. Sproul is a compelling teacher/preacher.

Podcasts

As with sermons so also with podcasts – one might better interact with the younger ministers to see what they might recommend. Here are my favorites, by which I mean the ones I find most helpful.

Al Mohler's The Briefing – Typically 25 minutes long. The Briefing is brief. Yet he manages to mine multiple news sources to provide a credible, balanced, and fair Christian

Continued on Page 2

analysis of current events. A few minutes with Mohler each weekday provides a clear Christian perspective on the news available nowhere else. He uniquely helps us to think like Christians about the world we inhabit. I cannot imagine how he manages to run a college (Boyce), the flagship Southern Baptist Seminary (Louisville), and synthesize all the news and all the sources as he does on a daily basis. I would think producing *The Briefing* were a full-time job. Mohler manages it in his spare time.

Mortification of Spin – OPC minister and theologian Carl Trueman and PCA minister Todd Pruitt host this program on a bi-weekly basis. It does more to keep me up to date with recent significant Christian publications than any other source.

The Ben Shapiro Show – Shapiro is an Orthodox Jew who is highly appreciative of evangelical Christianity and shares a common theistic and ethical world view. I receive more detailed insight in today's news from an hour of Shapiro than a week's worth of television news. He knows in depth the law, the background, the players, the motivations, and the history behind contemporary events. He is conservative, yet balanced, holds strong views, yet is fair.

The Rest is History – Hosted by two Englishman, Dominic Sandbrook and Tom Holland. Together they are brilliant storytellers. History comes alive for even those never before interested in the past. Their bias is of course England, then the United Kingdom, the United States, and finally the English-speaking world. Yet they range over all of the world and all of history. No one better sets the scene, introduces the personalities, provides the illuminating anecdote, and tells the story better than they do. As an introduction, try their podcast on "Pigeons."

The Victor Davis Hanson Show – Provides historical perspective from a brilliant scholar identified with Stanford University's Hoover Institute. His knowledge of warfare in particular is unmatched.

Above all, for the good of your soul, I recommend that you let the holidays inaugurate a fresh commitment to the people of God and the services of the church. More valuable than books, recorded sermons, and podcasts is the discipline of gathering with the people of God, in the house of God, under the word of God, and in the presence of the Son of God who promises to be present where two or more have gathered in His name. •

FOR MORE OF MR. JOHNSON'S WRITINGS, SEE
IPCSAV.ORG/NEWS OR REFORMATIONTODAY.COM

Lessons & Carols 2025

JACOB FUHRMAN

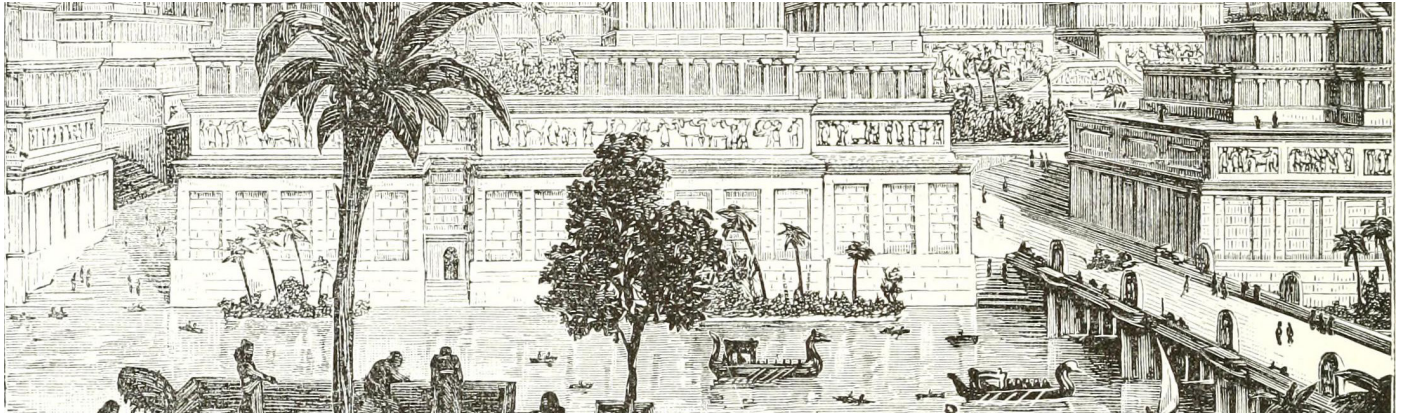
Our annual Lessons & Carols service will take place the evening of **Sunday, December 21**. Here are a few details for those participating so that you can mark your calendars and make sure you have the necessary clothing:

- On **Sunday, December 21**, most groups will need to arrive between 4:00 and 4:30pm to warm up and be seated in the proper places.
- We will have our usual **Saturday rehearsal on December 20 between 9:00am and noon**. The various groups will run on a rolling schedule, so nobody will need to be there for the whole thing. In general, younger groups will meet closer to 9:00am and older groups closer to noon. Please watch for an email containing the full schedule around the second week of December.
- **Dress code for youth and children's choirs:** white or light tops with black or dark bottoms. For boys, this means light shirts and dark pants. For girls, it can mean a light shirt with a dark skirt or a light cardigan over a dark dress.

We've been working on our Christmas music since September, and while there's some more work to do, we're well on our way! •

*Christmas
Eve Service*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
5:30 PM WITH A MESSAGE BY
MR. JOHNSON & CANDLELIGHT
CAROL SINGING
ON THE LAWN



OF GOLDEN TOILETS, BABYLONIAN INVASIONS AND CANCER

EVAN GEAR

This very morning I was listening to an account of a particular golden toilet – a solid gold art piece – which had been stolen from a palace. The thieves, it was assumed, had the thing melted down into more sizable pieces which could be traded. The commentator mused that such melting was an apt or fitting commentary on the value of the art. He is right. While intact it meant nothing to the thieves, as a piece of art it was useless. They merely wanted the gold from which it had been cast.

This in turn made me think of Babylon. Yes, Babylon, that ancient superpower and the divine instrument of judgment upon the people of Judah. I had been reading of them in the close of the second book of Kings. In many ways, they are set as light against the darkness of the people of God. The Babylonians are doing God's will as the people of Israel, the kings of Judah rebel at every turn doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD. There is something of the redemptive turn to the Gentiles in all this but the thing that struck me was a little phrase describing the Chaldean pillaging of the temple in Jerusalem. In 2 Kings 25:8, 14-15, it says that *"Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem... And they took away the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service, the fire pans also and the bowls. What was of gold the captain of the guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver."*

It is that last sentence that caught my attention. This is a list of very sacred things to the people of God. These are far more

valuable to them than an avant-garde art piece. These are the instruments used to serve the LORD. They are holy. The thing that gives them their worth, their value is in their use not their composition. But the Babylonian cares nothing for any of that. He takes the gold as gold and the silver as silver.

And that brings me to this experience of mine here in this hospital room. What is it? Is it just a series of events cobbled together for my healing? Or is there more to it than that? Is the composite whole something greater than its parts? I must say, yes. For here, my suffering, my difficulties, the doctors and the nurses and the medications are being wrought together. They are instruments in the hands of my Redeemer and He is holy. He makes use of them not for their intrinsic glory or beauty but because they are things of this earth, part of the human experience. Just as He took our common lot, our inglorious suffering and dying to work a glorious salvation, so I trust He is doing here in my little corner of hardship. He is sanctifying this momentary distress. He does it for all those who are His, who flee to Him for refuge. So, I don't receive this suffering as mere suffering, this trial as just another trial but as a holy work of God the further to unite me to His Son by the Spirit. I trust for you He will make your trials the same.

Thank you all for your prayers and support - they too are part of His holy work. I look forward to seeing you all again soon, as the apostle John says, "face to face." •

PSALMS & HYMNS OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER

(Year 1-10)

#208 - O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin hymn, attr. to
John Francis Wade, 1751

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light;
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God,
Begotten, not created.

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest;
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning:
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Late in flesh appearing;
Refrain

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

(Year 11-15)

Psalm 108

- 1 My heart is fixed, O God;
I'll sing; my psalms I'll raise.
- 2 My soul shall sing; awake, O harp!
At dawn I'll wake to praise.
- 3 I will give thanks to Thee
Among the peoples, LORD.
Among the nations of the world
To Thee I'll psalms accord.
- 4 Above the heavens high
Thy love and mercy rise;
Thy faithfulness extendeth far;
It reaches to the skies.
- 5 Be Thou exalted far
Above the heav'ns, O God;
And let Thy glory be advanced
O'er all the earth abroad.
- 6 That Thy beloved ones
Deliverance may see,
O save us by Thy strong right hand;
In mercy answer me.
- 7 God spoke in holiness;
"I will exultant stand;
From Shechem unto Succoth's vale
I'll portion out the land.

- 8 For Gi-le-ad is Mine;
Mine are Manasseh's fields;
Yes, Ephraim defends My head;
My scepter Judah wields.
- 9 "In Moab I will wash,
My shoe on Edom throw;
And o'er the land of Palestine
In triumph I will go."
- 10 O who will bring me to
The city fortified?
Or who is he that to the land
Of Edom will me guide?
- 11 Hast Thou not cast us off,
O God, in Whom we boast?
Wilt Thou no more, O God, go forth
In battle with our host?
- 12 Against the foe give help;
In vain the help man knows.
- 13 In God we shall do valiantly,
For He'll tread down our foes.

TUNE: FESTAL SONG SM
(new *Trinity Hymnal*, p. 242)
("Rise Up O Men of God")
Elements from *The Psalter*, 1912

ABOUT THE PSALMS

Psalm 108

Two Psalm endings, 57:7-11 (vv 1-5) and 60:5-12 (vv 6-13) combine to form the 108th. Yet "it is no (mere) anthology," says Motyer. "David drew on his earlier psalmody and fashioned it afresh for new needs," he continues. It opens with thanksgiving (vv 1-6) and ends with the promise of triumph (vv 7-13). The place names in verses 7 and 8 are a way of indicating dominion over the whole land of Israel; Moab, Edom & Philistia (vv 9, 10) are principle enemies over whom victory is promised. Spurgeon entitles it, "The Warrior's Morning Song."

(Year 1-10)

**GUIDE ME, O THOU
GREAT JEHOVAH (#598)**

William Williams, 1745

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

TUNE: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.rep.
John Hughes, 1907

(Year 11-15)

PSALM 109:1-12

1 God, my Praise, O be not silent!
2 Wicked and deceitful mouths
Now are opened wide against me;
Lying tongues against me speak.
3 They with hateful words
beset me;
They attack me without cause.
4 Spurning my love, they
accuse me,
Even while I pray for them.

5 So for good they pay me evil,
Give me hatred for my love.
6 Set a wicked man against him,
An accuser let him face.
7 When he's tried, let him be guilty;
Let his prayer be counted sin.
8 May his days be few in number;
May another seize his goods.

9 Without father be his children;
May his wife a widow be.
10 May his children beg and wander,
Driven from their ruined homes.
11 May the lender make him
bankrupt;
Strangers steal his hard-earned cash.
12 Let not one show kindness to him;
Let none help his orphan sons!

TUNE: STUTTGART 87.87. (98B)
("God My King Thy Might Confessing")

**PSALMS & HYMNS
SCHEDULE 2026**

YEAR 4 (YEARS 1-10)

JANUARY - GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT
JEHOVAH (#598)

FEBRUARY - PSALM 67

MARCH - ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR
BLEED (#254)

APRIL - PSALM 24

MAY - PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE
ALMIGHTY (#53)

JUNE - PSALM 42

JULY - GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE
SPOKEN (#345)

AUGUST - PSALM 19

SEPTEMBER - IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE,
GOD ONLY WISE (#38)

OCTOBER - PSALM 124

NOVEMBER - CROWN HIM WITH MANY
CROWNS (#295)

DECEMBER - PSALM 37

YEAR 14 (YEARS 11-15)

JANUARY - PSALM 109:1-12 (TUNE:
STUTTGART)

FEBRUARY - MORE LOVE TO THEE, O
CHRIST (#649)

MARCH - PSALM 111:1-4 (TUNE: ST
MAGNUS)

APRIL - O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING
(#660)

MAY - PSALM 112 (TUNE: MORECAMBE)

JUNE - O LITTLE TOWN OF
BETHLEHEM (#201)

JULY - PSALM 115 (TUNE: DIX)

AUGUST - O WORSHIP THE KING (#2)

SEPTEMBER - PSALM 116 (TUNE:
PILGRIMS)

OCTOBER - ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT
ALL CHRISTIANS SING (#227)

NOVEMBER - PSALM 119:65-72
(GUIDANCE)

DECEMBER - REJOICE, YE PURE IN
HEART (#604)

Psalm 109

Though Psalm 109 is "the most outspoken of the imprecatory Psalms" and "has attracted a bad press," Motyer sees no conflict with the spirit and ideals of the New Testament. The Psalmist loves and prays for his enemies (vv. 4-5). He does not retaliate. "His response to hurt and malice is to bring it to God in the place of prayer and to leave it there" (cf. Rom 12:19). If we find the content of his prayer to be too severe we should recognize that he only prays for God to do to His enemies that which He has already promised to do. Motyer continues, "If we retreat into unreality with a general petition where the psalmist ventured to express scriptural realism, we should at least be aware of what we are doing."

SAVE THE DATE

WOC

Winter Fellowship

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
9:30-11:00 AM
TELFAIR HALL

BIRTHS

Ava Joy Hudson born Friday, September 19, 2025, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brett D. Hudson (Elise).



Cade Rogan Smith born Wednesday, September 24, 2025, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Smith (Taylor).



Margaret Scott Brodmann born Thursday, October 2, 2025, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott T. Brodmann (Caroline).



Elizabeth Barnard "Ebie" Chisholm, born Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. "Kip" Chisholm III (Ashley).



Margaret Jane Tucker, born Thursday, November 6, 2025, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin S. Tucker (Grace).

WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Christopher Huncke were united in marriage by Rev. Tim Shaw on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Mrs. Huncke is the former Miss Haley Ruth Gravitte.

BEREAVEMENT

IN MEMORIAM

William "Bill" McKee Austin

Entered the Lord's presence on Saturday, November 1, 2025

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD, WHICH DIE IN THE LORD.

Revelation 14:13



MARCH FOR LIFE

JANUARY 22-24, 2026

The March for Life is an inspiring and peaceful rally of pro-life supporters from across the country. It has occurred every year (except during the pandemic) since 1974 in response to the Roe v. Wade decision.

While the overturning of Roe V. Wade is a major step in the right direction, it does not end abortion. Overturning Roe returns the ability to protect the unborn back to the American people through their elected officials both federally and in the states. The battle is now with the Legislative Branch of government to pass life-affirming laws.

Consider joining us as we march for the unborn! If you are unable to attend, consider donating to help underwrite the cost of the trip.

Cost for IPC Members: \$60

Cost for non-IPC Members: \$75

Final Deadline to Register: January 5, 2026

Cost includes charter bus, hotel with breakfast, dinner on first day

Register by scanning the QR code below, or contact Wendy Sutton or the church office for a paper registration.



"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Job 33:4

"Your hands made me and formed me."

Psalms 119:73a

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Susan Ellis	11 Maggie Miller	18 Mary Hazeltine	24 Andy Chisholm
1 Hayes Hostetter	12 Jackson Carter	18 Mark Ward	24 Geneen Gibson
1 Christine Quinley	12 Ann Wohlfeil	19 Marc Biemiller	25 Joan Cribbs
2 Ben Johnson	13 Emma Brodmann	19 Grant Lane	25 Frank Orellana
2 Cadence Soutar	13 Jack Hogan	19 Kristin Nyce	26 Sharon Robinson
3 Lewis Heritage	13 Lanier Shelton	19 Austin Webb	27 Victoria Barlow
3 Carol Mulligan	14 Ryon Rambo	20 Ed Cording	27 Ben Hart
4 Lucy Smith Biemiller	14 Alex Sutherland	20 Stan Freeman	28 Fef Nolen
4 Clara Crowe	15 Andrew Harris	20 Marley Rodgers	28 James Rodenberg
4 Erin Essenburg	15 Stephen Jackson	21 Titus Howard	28 Luke Rodenberg
4 Esther Shull	15 Daniel Jackson	21 Landry Melville	28 Brad Taylor
5 Marion Brown	15 Tanner Lanier	22 John Breckenridge	28 Dodie Thompson
6 Darwin Nease	16 Maisie Gear	22 Ben Field	29 Sarah Schmidt
7 Jan Maganini	16 Amy Orellana	22 Anna Hazeltine	30 Selah Groover
9 Jill Black	16 Margo Orellana	22 Josh Whitten	30 Kim Hayes
9 Jack Reese	17 Nicole Cabrera	23 Jane Boatright	30 Roy Thompson, Sr.
10 Chad Boatright	17 Will Rambo	23 Edith Brunson	31 Ashley Chisholm
10 Sonny Longo	17 Grace Tucker	23 Peter Schenk	
11 Connie Huang	18 Liam Black	23 Mary Warnell	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Kim Lanier	10 Gabe Orellana	16 Ryan Bergman	24 Evan Rosenfeld
2 Mary Catherine McLean	11 Theo Bergman	16 Barbara Cunningham	25 Jackie James
2 Turner Milling	11 Eli Chester	16 Diane Diver	25 Rod Steward
4 Stephen Dusek	11 Linda Erwin	16 Kay Heritage	26 Sam Brunson
4 Clare Essenburg	11 Salem Gear	16 Denise Winks	26 Grace Howard
4 Stefani Soutar	11 Karen Johnson	17 Mandy Oswald	26 Parks Parrish
5 Teri Bell	11 Patrick Kenard	18 Fae Kameron	28 Sarah Monroe
5 Charles DePue	11 Ann Klein	20 Murle Breer	28 Madeline Mullinix
5 Sarah Mullinix	11 Lianna McIntire	21 Bel Orellana	28 Madison Reid
5 Bruce Willson	11 Winn Morgan	22 Sharon Hassing	28 Wayne Sullivan
6 Bob Oswald	12 Robert Breer	22 Hannah Kate Howard	28 KK Willson
8 Carol Dusek	12 Caleb Espinosa	22 Mary Elizabeth Lay	30 Lucy Brannen
8 Nancy Henrick	12 Temple Fennell	23 Nikki Gergacs	30 Kenneth Crowe
9 Brooks Barrett	14 Warren Bergman	23 Kevin Heritage, Jr.	30 Jamie McKee
9 Kathy Moore	14 David Breland	24 Alan Harvey	31 Adeline Immel
9 Pat Toler	14 Janice McAlpine	24 Alice Henrick	
10 Bill Brodmann	15 Kayron Stevens	24 Ella McWhorter	

IPC Messenger

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LESSONS & CAROLS AND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BUFFET

DECEMBER 21, 2025 - 5:30 PM

Our Lessons & Carols Service will be held Sunday evening, December 21, at 5:30 pm. It will be followed by our Annual Christmas Buffet. Members of the congregation are asked to help with this event by bringing ready-to-eat finger foods, on platters which require no reheating or assembly. This year we are providing food by Care Groups as follows:



1. A. BRODMANN/BRUNSON - SWEET

2. CROWE - SAVORY

3. GOBEL - SWEET

4. BRECKENRIDGE - SAVORY

5. THOMPSON - SWEET

6. BIEMILLER - SAVORY

7. MARTIN/JACKSON - SWEET

8. MILLING - SAVORY

9. MULLINIX - SAVORY

10. GROSS/W. BRODMANN - SWEET

11. BOATRIGHT/HAZELTINE - SAVORY

12. BARRETT - SAVORY