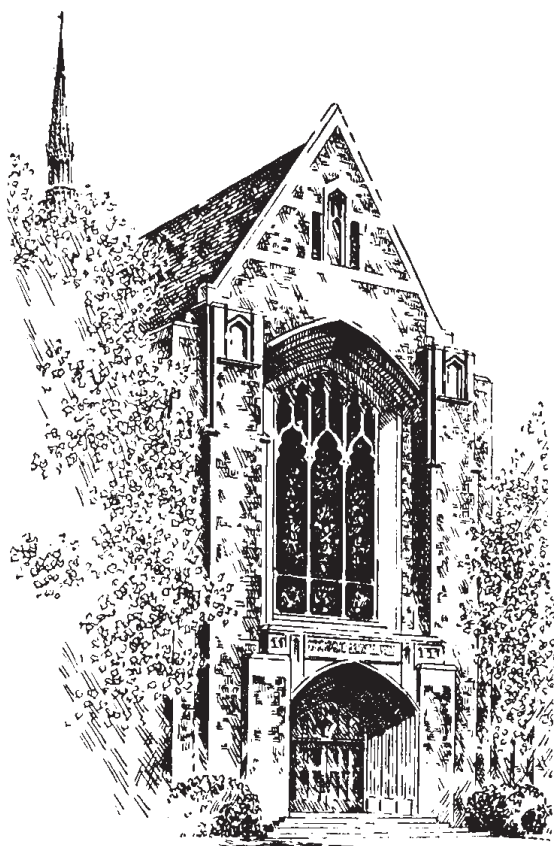


Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 8, 2022

eight forty-five o'clock
eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God be thanked for mothers; for their revelations of Thee in willingness to pour out blood of body and soul for us. God be merciful to mothers; that they may see of the travail of their hearts and be satisfied in strong and gracious sons and daughters. God be merciful to mothers, who are mothers in yearning only. Give them a spiritual motherhood in mothering the motherless everywhere, and may they find surcease in Thee, O Answerer of prayer. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Amazing Grace"arr. Wilbur Held
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.

CALL TO WORSHIPRev. Clayton
Minister: I will give praise to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
All: I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
Minister: The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
All: Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.
Minister: Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion, proclaim among the nations what he has done.
All: Let us worship the Lord our God. *Psalm 9:1-2, 9-11*

* **HYMN 231** - "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers" **SUO GAN**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Unison: Lord Jesus, as you have come to us, let us now come to you. Our hearts are cold. Warm them with your selfless love. Our hearts are sinful. Cleanse them with your precious blood. Our hearts are weak. Strengthen them with your joyous Spirit. Our hearts are empty. Fill them with your divine presence. Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours. Possess them always and only for yourself. Amen. *St. Augustine*

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, this is the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* THE PEACE

Minister: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: 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 (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM APPEAL Catherine Goudreau,
Mary Stewart Beasley

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 30

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

ANTHEM - "The Beatitudes" Albert Hay Malotte

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. *Matthew 5:3-6*

SECOND LESSON - Matthew 15:21-28

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - SURPRISING GRACE Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 465 - "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" CONVERSE

* APOSTLES' CREED Rev. Seamon

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

- * The Offertory Statement
- * The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606)..... OLD HUNDREDTH
- * The Prayer of Dedication
- The Offertory Anthem – "A Simple Song" Leonard Bernstein
Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laudē. Make it up as you go along: Lauda, Laudē. Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, For God is the simplest of all. I will sing the Lord a new song To praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord. I will sing His praises while I live All of my days. Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Blessed is the man who praises Him. Lauda, Lauda, Laudē. And walks in His ways. I will lift up my eyes To the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord Singing Lauda, Laudē. For the Lord is my shade, Is the shade upon my right hand, And the sun shall not smite me by day Nor the moon by night. Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Lauda, Lauda, Laudē, And walks in His ways. Lauda, Lauda, Laudē, Lauda, Lauda di da di day. All of my days. *Stephen Schwartz*

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 649 - "Amazing Grace" AMAZING GRACE
- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE - "Festival Voluntary".....Flor Peeters
- *Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship Services. If you are looking for a church to grow in your faith, you are welcome here at IPC! We invite you to join us at our next IPC WELCOME event to learn more – sign up online at www.ipc-usa.org or email Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org. We look forward to personally meeting you. **PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE** by signing the registers in the pews, then passing them down to others.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Veronica and James Cooper Halbleib. **THE ROSE** in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth on March 27, 2022, of Ewan Yanzhang Brisendine, son of Zhetao Guo and Jacob Brisendine; grandson of Melissa and Dwight Brisendine. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Coleman, Senior; Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, WWII Pacific Theater; witnessed the raising of the American flag (both times) at Iwo Jima; father of Lochrane Coleman Smith, grandfather of Lochrane Smith Chase.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

TODAY IS the Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) Appeal Sunday. During the morning worship services, we'll learn more about the nearly 100-year history of IPC's ministry on the mountain. Since 1923, IPC has operated the Children's Fresh Air Farm to promote hope and opportunity through partnerships with children, families, and the community by offering quality programming rooted in the love of Christ. As we prepare to celebrate the Farm's centennial in 2023, we ask for your financial support as we continue to minister to children from Birmingham through the Christian-focused Summer Learning Program and LIFT OFF to Learning. If you would like to give to the CFAF appeal, ushers will collect during this morning's offering. Please write "CFAF GIFT" on your check or envelope. Gifts may also be submitted online by scanning the QR code to the right. Please select "CFAF GIFT" as the fund.



FAMILY FEST: Join IPC and other local churches for a Family Fest event at the Crestline Elementary Fields on Sunday, May 8, 5 pm - 7 pm. This free event will feature inflatables, crafts, and games for children and youth. Local Mountain Brook vendors including Mountain Brook Creamery, Craft's, and Post Office Pies will also be there.

IPC MARRIAGE EVENT: Join us for a one-night marriage event on Friday, May 13, at Clubhouse on Highland from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. This event is open to all married couples. Registration (\$20/couple) includes dinner and drinks. Nursery care is available for babies - 2s, and there will be an IPC Kid's Fun Night for 3s - 6th graders, both at IPC. Register at ipc-usa.org/connect.

FOCUS ON FAITH EVENT: Join us Sunday, May 15, for our Focus on Faith speaker Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiley, Director for Major Gifts at Columbia Theological Seminary. Rev. Wiley will lecture on "U.S. Immigration and its Effect on Religion" during the 10 am Sunday School hour in Highland Hall. A lunch with Rev. Wiley in the Great Hall Room 1 will follow the 11 am worship service. Register for lunch at ipc-usa.org/connect.

TABLE COOKOUT: Gather with us on Sunday, May 15, after the 5 pm Table worship service for a supper in the Garage (Highland Hall) at 6 pm.

JOIN US FOR BEER & HYMNS on Monday, May 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Iron City Grill, 2208 6th Avenue South. We sing old-time hymns (plus a few new ones) while enjoying good food and beverages.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support of our IPC Food Ministries. The Blessing Boxes receive many visitors, and we remain in need of food and hygiene items. We are preparing 200 bags for Hayes K-8 in May and then 100 bags each month in June and July for our Summer Learning Program families. To help, sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect and contact Evelyn Puckett at (205) 933-3726.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

LIVING RIVER (2000 Living River Parkway Montevallo, AL 35115) invites IPC for an Open-Camp Afternoon on Sunday, May 22, from 2 pm - 4 pm. Come enjoy a dedication of new and beloved camp features (IPC Chapel, Labyrinth, and Low Ropes Course), recognition of all Living River's donors, and light refreshments. Reservations not required. Living River is the Presbyterian Church (USA) camp and retreat center for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and is separate 501 c3 non-profit organization.

MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONNECTION CONFERENCE: Join us August 12-14 for *Claimed for More: Wholehearted Living When We Are All Out of Sorts* with keynote speaker Sarah Bessey. To register and sign up for housing, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org by June 1.

ONGOING RECYCLING: Please bring your clean and dry #5 plastics to the large white sack behind the sanctuary building and help the earth while supporting women survivors of homelessness through Community on the Rise.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation

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

Mrs. Beth Middleton, Soprano

Acolytes: *(eight forty-five)* Caroline Grace Allen, Norah Claire Roller

(eleven o'clock) Hattie Brooke Donovan, Stephen Christopher Tribble,

Charlotte Goodner Walthall

Independent Presbyterian Church

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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