LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS! We would love to welcome you as a new member of our family of faith at IPC. Please indicate your interest by contacting Stacy Pulliam at the church office, 933-3731. "Like" us on Facebook at IPCBirmingham.

IPC FOUNDATION'S Summer Lunch & Learn Series kicks off in May. Invite a friend and join us each month to learn about various local organizations that are improving lives in our area. For the first event on May 27, we will hear from Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (¡HICA!) CEO Isabel Rubio in the Great Hall from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Lunch is \$10, and you can pay at the door or online. Please make a reservation or find the full calendar online at ipc-usa.org/connect.

2021 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Join IPC for Women's Connection in Montreat, NC, August 12-15. Register online at ipc-usa.org by June 1 to reserve a spot with the group attending from IPC. Please contact Cathy Delozier at cathy@sowowme.com with any questions about the trip.

IPC CONNECT is a new ministry of Congregational Care offering opportunities for IPC adults to connect to one another, God, and the wider world for fun, Christian fellowship, and exploration. Join us in June for two exciting events! Come together with fellow IPC friends for sunset cocktails and a light supper on Thursday, June 17, at 6:30 pm. Or purchase tickets to attend Million Dollar Quartet with a private reception at Virginia Samford Theatre on Thursday, June 27, at 7:30 pm. Find details and make reservations at ipc-usa.org/connect.

HELP OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS. Highlands United Methodist Church is serving those in need in the community by providing toiletries and a sack lunch to each person who comes. IPC is helping Highland United Methodist Church to provide 50 sacked lunches every Tuesday for the homeless. Sign up to serve in May at ipc-usa. org/connect/links.html

PAY IT FORWARD through IPC's Buy a Meal, Share a Meal partnership with Rojo. To help feed people in Highland Park who are suffering from food insecurity, you can purchase a meal from Rojo for your family and purchase another for a family in need. You can also call Rojo to pay for a meal to be donated or make donations to IPC's Social Services Fund.

TALK WITH THE PREACHER

David is available for conversations by appointment Please email dseamon@ipc-usa.org or call 205-933-3730 to arrange an appointment.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer Interim Pastor sgoyer@ipc-usa.org

Rev. Susan Clayton Associate Pastor of Adult and

Community Ministries sclayton@ipc-usa.org

Rev. David Seamon Associate Pastor of Faith Formation dseamon@ipc-usa.org

Dr. Jeff McLellandDirector of Fine Arts & Music - jmclelland@ipc-usa.org

Nick Mathes

Stacy Pulliam

Director of Member Engagement and Assimilation spulliam@ipc-usa.org

Kenya Glasco Nursery Coordinatorkglasco@ipc-usa.org

Beth Middleton

Assistant Director of Music and Fine Arts & Music Coordinator for 5pm Worship bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

JD Tyler Director of Youth Faith Formation Rev. Susan Clayton Associate Pastor, Congr. Care & Adult Ed Beth Middleton Music Coordinator Sarah Mason Worship Leader Acoustic Guitar Billy Gant Van Hollingsworth Bass Steel Guitar Fred Rogan Jeanette Hightower Violin **Annie Norris** Vocals

Cover: *Veni Sancti Spiritus* ceramic mural created circa 1965 by Adam Kossowski. Located in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Aloysius, London. This wall-length mural can be found on the back center wall of a circular recess off to the right of the sanctuary of this church (also built in the 1960s). The international interest in space at this time is reflected by the use of the moon, stars, and a black-blue "space" sky instead of the more typical clouds and angels to represent the heavens. Concentric halos echoing the appearance of planetary rings radiate from the Dove, the Holy Spirit.

Sound

The bold use of the liturgical color of Pentecost, red, captures the eye immediately. The line the viewer's eye draws from the Dove through the deepening shades of red to the fish below parallels the spiritual baptism of the earth's citizens by the Holy Spirit. The use of the spacesky and people as ocean fish allude to several metaphors such as the beginning of Creation, the fish as a symbol of Jesus, the growth of the early Church, and the vast power of the Holy Spirit radiating throughout the entire universe to the deepest waters and the farthest stars. *Image courtesy of the Vanderbilt Jean and Alexander Heard Divinity Library.*



Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205 Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 | Phone: 205.933.1830 www.ipc-usa.org | www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



MAY 23, 2021

DAY OF PENTECOST

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Open · Affirming · Welcoming
Worship is at the center of the life of The Table.
As you prepare yourself for worship,
we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

The dove descending breaks the air With flames of incandescent terror Of which the tongues declare
The one discharge from sin and error.
The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyreTo be redeemed from fire by fire.

Who then devised the torment? Love.
Love is the unfamiliar Name
Behind the hands that wove
The intolerable shirt of flame
Which human power cannot remove.
We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either fire or fire.

-An excerpt from Little Gidding by T.S. Eliot, who reflected in 1941-1942 on humanity's choice between the fire of destruction (WWII bombing of London) and the Pentecostal fire of Love and renewal

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. Today is Pentecost as signified by the color red. Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world.

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty *ruach* (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power — the unseen power of God — moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it *ruach YHWH*, "the wind, or breath, of God" (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the "unseenness of God" working among us.

According to Joel (2:28-29) the *ruach* will open everybody to God's future. People young and old will dream and have visions of hope. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves, frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.

Therefore, on Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10). The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church. (from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*)

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

E-mail or call us: We would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. Please reach out to us by contacting Stacy Pulliam at 205.933.3690 and spulliam@ipc-usa.org or Cindy Shaw at 205.933.3696 and cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

Visit our website: ipc-usa.org/welcome

GATHERING

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

+Gathering Song

Welcome

Greeting

Leader: Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, thus says

the Lord.

People: Send down your holy fire.

Leader: Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

People: Send down the rain of your love.

Leader: Your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall

see visions.

People: Send down your Spirit, breathe life in your

people.

Leader: In those days, I will pour out my spirit.

People: And we shall be people of God.

+Hymn of Praise #475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

LISTENING

We *listen* for the word of God through confession, passing the peace, Scripture, and preaching

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Heavenly Father, you have never once forsaken your people or your promises. Often, we have forsaken you. You sent your Son into the world to bring life, healing, and restoration. At Pentecost you poured out your Spirit on our sons and daughters, but still we turn away. We turn away from you and from each other. We turn away from life in your Son. We resist the murmurs of the Holy Spirit within us. Forgive us, O God. Pour down your Spirit once again. Open our eyes to your glory and our hearts to your mercy. Give us a new vision of your Son's completed work Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Assurance of Grace:

One: In Jesus Christ, All: we are forgiven!

+Gloria Patri

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:1-41

Sermon: A Promise-Keeping God and Savior

RESPONDING

We *respond* to the hearing of God's word through reflection, prayer, offering and communion

Musical Reflection

"Spirit of the Living God"

Sharing of Gifts

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty. Please place your gifts in the plate in the back as you leave.

Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

- Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Song: "Speak, O Lord"
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors

+Closing Song

"Song of Blessing"

+Benediction

Postlude

Our service is over, let our service begin. fed by mystery, forgiven of sin. Now our faith made real, when brokenness we heal. our service is over, let our service begin.

⁺Rise in Body or Spirit