

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.

YOUR OFFERING IS APPRECIATED. Offerings may be submitted online, by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts!

REGISTRATION FOR VBS AND BTMP is now open for members. Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held May 17-20 in the Day School classrooms for ages: 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s. Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP) will be held June 7-11 at the Children's Fresh Air Farm for children who have completed K5-5th grade. Completed 6-12th graders are eligible to be Tribal Assistants. Registration forms are available at ipc-usa.org > connect.

WELCOME TO IPC: JD TYLER joined IPC staff April 6 as our Director of Youth Faith Formation. He is a child of the PCUSA. Born in Oklahoma and raised in Kansas and Texas, JD attended Samford University where he met his wife Hollie. He is currently attending Princeton Theological Seminary online where he will graduate with a Master's of Divinity.

THANK YOU TO JAY WILKINS. Jay started with us last fall as our Interim Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and feels now is the right season to fully retire and spend more well-deserved time with his family. His last day on staff will be April 26, although he won't go far, as Jay plans to continue worshipping at IPC.

RETURN TO THREE SUNDAY SERVICES ON APRIL 18: It is our joy to announce that we will resume our 8:45 am worship service in the sanctuary beginning next Sunday, April 18. Attendance will be by reservation, and our current guidelines from IPC's Re-Opening Task force will allow us to have 164 people in attendance in the sanctuary at both the 8:45 am and 11 am services beginning April 18. The City of Birmingham has extended its mask ordinance until May 24, 2021, so please continue to wear your mask as we have been doing. Also, please maintain social distancing to ensure the safety of all our members. A new coffee hour in the cloister of the church each Sunday also begins April 18 following the 8:45 am service. We welcome anyone who wants to come to the church between 9:45 - 10:45 am for coffee and fellowship. We look forward to these opportunities to reconnect with one another! Make reservations to worship with us in person on Sundays at ipc-usa.org/worship.

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. Jay Wilkins
Interim Associate Pastor
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
jwilkins@ipc-usa.org

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

Catherine Goudreau
Director of Children and Youth
CFAF Programming Director
cgoudreau@ipc-usa.org

Kay Roller
Director of Childrens Faith Formation
kroller@ipc-usa.org

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

Kenya Glasco
Nursery Coordinator-
kglasco@ipc-usa.org

Kathy Leaver
Director of IPC Day School
kleaver@ipc-usa.org

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkins	Interim Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care
Rev. David J. Seamon	Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
Jim Walker	Acoustic Guitar
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Jeanette Hightower	Violin
Beth Middleton	Vocals
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: *Christ shows himself to Thomas*, detail of a Venetian glass mosaic in the Resurrection Chapel (completed in 1925) at the Washington National Cathedral. The Chapel focuses on Christ's earthly appearances after his rise from the dead through a series of seven mosaics. Instead of assigning a static halo to Jesus and other figures as a typical medieval or Renaissance artist would have done, the artist changed the colors of Jesus's halo in the progressive mosaics to reflect the disciples' and the people's growing recognition of him as the Resurrected Savior. In the previous mosaics, Jesus's halo changed from a subtle blue-gray cruciform halo to a yellow cruciform over a red background as he was slowly recognized. In this particular mosaic with Thomas, the flames of the Holy Spirit blaze out over Jesus's cruciform halo to ignite and overshadow Thomas's halo, illustrating the dawning moment of belief as Thomas touches Jesus and foreshadowing the tongues of fire of Pentecost.

Image courtesy of the Vanderbilt Jean and Alexander Heard Divinity Library.

Historical details courtesy of the Washington National Cathedral website cathedral.org



Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205

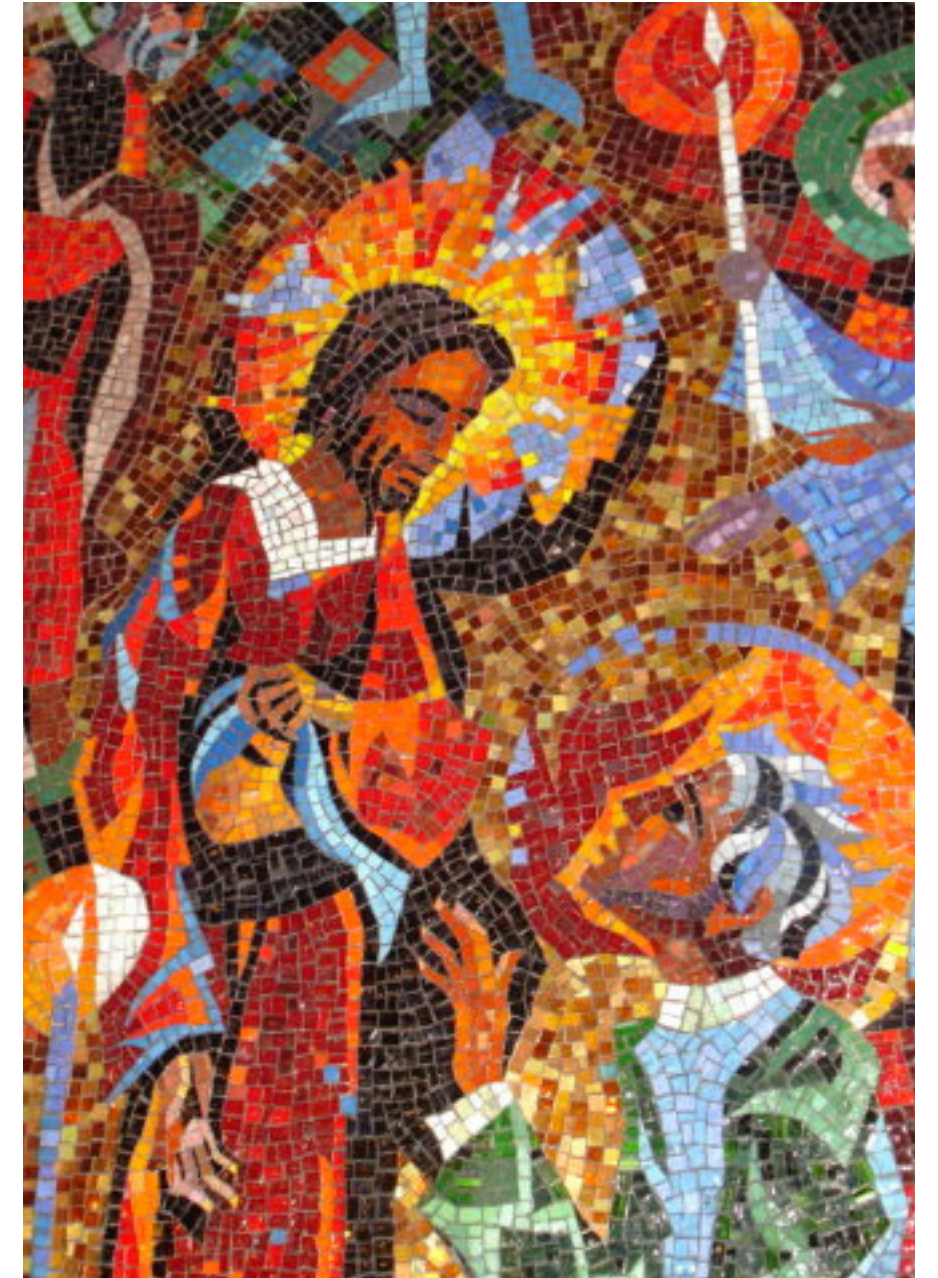
Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 | Phone: 205.933.1830

www.ipc-usa.org | www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



APRIL 11, 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

<div>WELCOME TO THE TABLE</div> <div>Open · Affirming · Welcoming</div> <div>Worship is at the center of the life of The Table.</div> <div>As you prepare yourself for worship, we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:</div> <div><i>O God, may I test my love for Thee by my love for my neighbor. And may I kindle and keep aflame forever my love for my neighbor by borrowing living fire from Thine altar, O most mighty and most merciful.</i></div> <div><i>from <u>Beginning the Day</u> by Henry M. Edmonds</i></div>
<div>THE LITURGICAL YEAR</div> <div>IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Easter as signified by the color white. Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a season. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a “week of weeks”), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church.</div> <div>Of course, Easter really isn't just a season either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11), called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).</div> <div>An excerpt from the <i>Companion to the Book of Common Worship</i>: For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we acclaim the resurrection of Christ by the power of God. The period of seven weeks of jubilation can be traced back to its Jewish roots of the fifty days celebrated from the day after Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Exodus 23:16). For Jews, the Feast of Weeks closed the season of harvest, which had been initiated by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In a similar manner, early Christians observed a fifty-day period of celebration from Easter to the Day of Pentecost. To underscore the uninterrupted rejoicing of these fifty days, fasting and kneeling in prayer were forbidden at least as early as the end of the second century. On the <i>pentecoste</i> (“fiftieth”) day, not only was the fifty-day period concluded, but a festival with its own proper content was celebrated. The Jews observed a feast of covenant renewal and eventually commemorated the giving of the Law. Christians celebrated the gift of the Spirit as preparing the way for the day of the Lord. What Moses and the Law did for the Jewish community, the Holy Spirit now does for the community of Christ.</div>

<div>IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:</div> <div>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.</div> <div>Visit our website: ipc-usa.org/welcome</div>
<div>GATHERING</div> <div>We <i>gather</i> as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God</div>

+*Gathering Song*

<i>Welcome</i>	
<i>Greeting</i>	
Leader:	Glory to you, O God: on this day you won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.
People:	Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.
Leader:	Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth.
People:	Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. This we ask through Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
+ <i>Hymn of Praise</i>	<i>“Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”</i>

<div>LISTENING</div> <div>We <i>listen</i> for the word of God through confession, passing the peace, Scripture, and preaching</div>

Prayer of Confession (unison)
**Lord Jesus, here we are, disciples and those who know a
deep need, gathered to meet you in the midst of fear and
confusion. Dispel our anxieties about ourselves, our past,
our faith. Open from the outside the hearts we unlock to
you from within. Help us to hear your voice beneath and
above and through all the other voices we hear. Con-
vince us that there is a center of peace at the heart of the
storms in our lives. Feed our faith on the certainty of your
presence and all your promises. Grant to us the joy of life
abundant, faithful and courageous. Amen.**

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

<i>Assurance of Grace:</i> One: In Jesus Christ, All: we are forgiven!
+ <i>Gloria Patri</i>
<i>Prayer for Illumination</i>
<i>Scripture Lesson: John 20:19–31</i>
<i>Sermon: Healing Wounds</i>

<div>RESPONDING</div> <div>We <i>respond</i> to the hearing of God's word through reflection, prayer, offering and communion</div>

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers
Musical Reflection *“In Christ Alone”*

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 (by Intinction)
- Song: *“Spirit of the Living God”*
- Prayer after Communion

<div>SENDING</div> <div>We are <i>sent</i> out into the world to love God and our neighbors</div>

+*Closing Hymn #839* *“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”*

+*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*