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!

CELEBRATE THE SEASON of Lent and Easter at IPC. Visit ipc-usa.org to find virtual and in-person opportunities to worship more fully during Holy Week including: Maundy Thursday, April 1, at 7 pm; Good Friday, April 2, at noon; and Easter Sunday, April 4, at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am, and 5 pm. All services are available in-person; reservations are required. The 5 pm services are held in Highland Hall and all others in the sanctuary. Livestream is available for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and all 11 am services. To find our services via livestream, search @IPCBirmingham on YouTube and Facebook.

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.

EASTER EGG HUNT: We invite friends and families to our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, at Highland Hall from 9 -11 am. Make a reservation at ipc-usa.org/connect to enjoy a fun morning of egg hunts, Atrium work, Bunny Brunch, and Easter Bunny photos.

OBSERVE THE SEDER TRADITION from home this year using IPC's Seder Kit. The Passover meal, or Seder, is one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish faith. Join us as we explore what this traditional celebration means to our Christianity. Reserve dinner and/or a kit to pick up curbside at ipc.usa-org/connect.

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
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Rev. David Seamon
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Kenya Glasco
Nursery Coordinator-
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Kathy Leaver
Director of IPC Day School
kleaver@ipc-usa.org

Participants in Today's Service

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer	Interim Pastor
Rev. Susan A. Clayton	Associate Pastor, Adult & Comm. Min.
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
Billy Gant	Acoustic Guitar
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Jeanette Hightower	Violin
Beth Middleton	Vocals
Annie Norris	Vocals
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: *Entry into Jerusalem*, a manuscript illumination from northern England around 1190-1200. Called a "glory" in medieval times, the halos in this image portray medieval ideas of hierarchy and humility. Jesus's cruciform halo incorporates gilding and is the most complex. Peter, who stands immediately behind Jesus's donkey because he is the first disciple, has a plain gold halo, the next most important because gilding was more expensive than paint. The remaining disciples have colorful halos, and the citizens have none. However, all of the disciples' heads are higher than Jesus's. Their relative height emphasizes Jesus's humility.

Jesus has also touched two palm branches, which have changed into fleurs-de-lys. Today we associate the fleur-de-lys (white lily) with France. However, in medieval times, the fleur-de-lys was a wild yellow iris that many used as a heraldic device or religious symbol. Here, the association with Jesus means an ancient flower from which springs forth new life.
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



March 28, 2021

Palm/Passion Sunday

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:

Almighty God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross. As we remember the great humility by which he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Lent as signified by the color purple, which symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice.

There are many traditions associated with this season. The main three are called the three pillars of Lent and encompass prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. For prayer, some people might follow a Lenten daily devotional guide or simply set aside time daily to pray. For fasting, many abstain from a specific rich food such as red meat, caffeine, dairy, chocolate, sweets, or alcohol, and others abstain from or limit an activity such as watching TV. For almsgiving, some make additional donations to nonprofit and charitable groups and others use the money or time they saved from their fasting and dedicate those to a nonprofit or charitable group. As a simple example, someone who gives up a daily coffee drink from a coffee shop might donate the saved funds to an animal rescue group. Today, all of these traditions are often deeply personal; although some choices such as giving up red meat are more common than others, it is the individuals who decide which traditions they follow and how those traditions add meaning to this season for them.

In the church, Lent is often observed with greater reflection and solemnity. In the case of this service, the Gloria Patri is omitted, and music or poetry with "Alleluia" is reserved for Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

Overall, Lent emphasizes self-reflection, simplicity, and sincerity (honesty). The word itself means "spring season," but it's not the birds singing, flowers "bustin' out all over" in a riot of color kind of spring--yet. That's Easter. Lent is the time when everyone is tired of the cold, dark winter. The days can't lengthen fast enough, and the crocus and daffodils might be killed off by a frost. But the days are lengthening slowly and the green sprigs are shooting up. It comes as slowly as ice thawing, but Easter is coming.

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*** *"An Instrument of Peace"*

Welcome

Greeting
Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Call to Worship (responsive)
Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: Hosanna in the highest!
Leader: Let us worship the Lord.

+***Hymn of Praise #716*** *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

Listening

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)
Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week, turn our hearts toward Jerusalem and the way of Jesus Christ. Forgive us when we think ourselves so deserving, privileged, and righteous that we deny our own call to pick up our cross and follow Jesus, who took the form of a servant and was obedient even to death on the cross. Help us to so share in his humble service that we may come to be with him in his glory, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Assurance of Grace:
One: In Jesus Christ,
All: we are forgiven!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 21:1-12

Sermon: From One Mount to the Next

Responding

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

Musical Reflection *"Hosanna"*

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: *"Great Are You, Lord"*
- Prayer after Communion

Sending

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

+***Closing Hymn #662*** *"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"*

+***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*