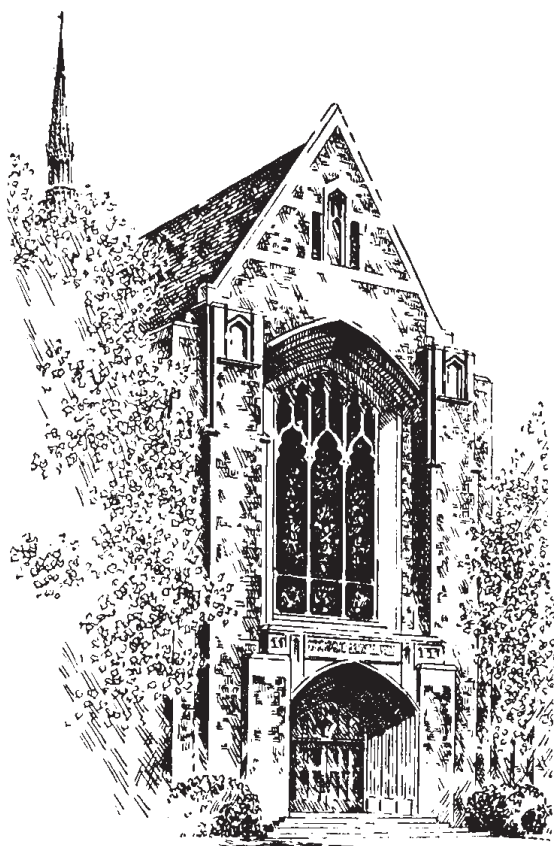


Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, most high and most good, out of our corruption, out of the abyss of our sin, we yet see a star. A light beckons us – a wonderful promise. It is Thy word and it cannot fail. If we look unto Thee we shall have new raiment, new power, new motives; we shall feel flowing through us the heavenly tide of Thy life. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Prelude on Psalm 34:6" Herbert Howells
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 quiet, His peace.

INTROIT - "This joyful Eastertide"arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow! My Love, the Crucified, Hath sprung to life this morrow. Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst His three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen.

CALL TO WORSHIP Mrs. Goudreau
Minister: Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
People: **Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp.**
Minister: Sing to him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy.
People: **For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.**
Minister: Let us worship the Living God! *Psalm 33*

*** HYMN 463** - "How Firm a Foundation" **FOUNDATION**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Unison: **God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your presence in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of your Word made flesh. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*11:00*)Rev. Long

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 1 (*Pew Bible*, p. OT489)

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 - "Psalm 23"Martin How

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul; and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me; Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But Thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end, Amen.

SECOND LESSON - John 1:1-5, 14, 16-18; 20:30-31

(*Pew Bible*, p. NT91-92, 115)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - THE WORD OF GOD.....Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 459 - "O Word of God Incarnate" MUNICH

* APOSTLES' CREEDRev. Clayton

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 – "If Ye Love Me"Philip Wilby
- If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, That He may abide with you forever; E'en the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you. *John 14:15-18*

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 462 - "I Love to Tell the Story" HANKEY
- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE - "Wir danken dir, Gott" Johann Sebastian Bach
- * *Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship Services. 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 meeting you.

THE FLOWERS in the church today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Louis James LeVaughn and Barbara Popwell Hawkins. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Coleman, Sr., Lieutenant Commander. U.S. Navy; WWII, Pacific Theater. He witnessed the death of many shipmates and carried the captain off the ship when the Red Wing was torpedoed; father of Lochrane Coleman Smith and grandfather of Lochrane Chase.

JOIN BRIDGES & CROSSROADS to talk about Community. All are welcome in Highland Hall Garage at 10 am for a 3-part series lead by Jay Turner. The series will consider the “insiders” and “outsiders” in the early church and how these stories instruct Christian communities today.

THE IPC BLESSING BOXES NEED YOUR HELP! We are running low on many items that our neighbors need and enjoy having. You can send donations from our Amazon Wishlist directly to the church or buy items from the pink pew card and bring them with you to church. If you are interested in donating and have questions, e-mail or call Sarah Scruggs at sscruggs@ipc-usa.org or (205) 933-3725.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

RACIAL WEALTH GAP SIMULATION: Join us for an event sponsored by IPC's Community Ministries and Bread for the World Teams, *Understanding the Racial Wealth Gap*, on Tuesday, April 25, at 5 - 7:30 pm in Highland Hall. This simulation will deepen our understanding about hunger, racism, and the wealth divide to increase our service to others. The registration deadline has been moved to today, Sunday, April 23. Sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect.

IPC CONNECT LUNCH BUNCH: On Tuesday, April 25, the IPC Lunch Bunch will dine at Rodney Scott's BBQ in Homewood! The group meets at the restaurant at 11:30 am. This is a self-pay event but please register at ipc-usa.org/connect so that we will have an accurate headcount.

LEARN TO KNIT: Have you ever wanted to learn to knit? Join IPC's Knitting Ministry Team on Thursday, April 27, in Room 105 beginning at 11:30 am. Don't have needles or yarn? No problem. We have extra. Questions? Call Carol Malone.

COLUMBARIUM OPEN HOUSE: IPC is targeting completion of the Columbarium addition by early summer. Join us for an Open House during the 10 am Sunday school hour on Sunday, April 30, in the Great Hall to begin sales for the new niches and to learn more about the project. For questions, please contact Patricia Harper at pharper@ipc-usa.org.

MUSIC4ROMANIA: A benefit concert *Odes and Elegies: An Evening of Music and Poetry* will be presented in the Great Hall on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 pm. The program will feature piano trio music by Enescu, Nottara, and Rachmaninoff performed by pianist Sasha Kasman Laude and Alabama Symphony Orchestra's musicians Daniel Szasz, violin, and Warren Samples, cello. Also featured will be poetry by Romanian-American poet Alina Stefanescu. Proceeds from this concert will enhance the lives of children in schools and orphanages in Romania through musical and cultural experiences as well as promote Romanian and American music in crosscultural understanding. Admission is free, but donations on-site or online will be accepted. More information can be found at music4romania.org.

PEACE CONFERENCE: You're invited to the Birmingham International Peace Conference, May 4-6, at the BJCC. To learn more, visit their website at peaceconference2023bham.com.

LUNCH AND LEARN: Join the Mwandi Mission Zambia Team for a Lunch and Learn as they share about their recent journey on Sunday, May 7, in the Great Hall immediately following 11 am worship service. To register for lunch, visit ipc-usa.org/connect.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

IPC FOOD MINISTRIES: In honor of Pat Pelham.

IPC COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: In memory of Judy Hill, Bob Moorer, Babs Simpson, and Moulton Smith. In honor of Rev. Lucy Turner.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds, Mr. William W. "Bill" Horton, Mrs. Frances B. Shepherd, and Mrs. Miriam S. Taylor. (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Mr. William W. "Bill" Horton.

MUSIC & FINE ARTS: In honor of George E. Keller III.

BAPTISM TODAY

LUTHER BARNER LANIER III, born November 8, 2022, son of Mrs. Amanda Rucker Lanier and Mr. Luther Barner Lanier, Jr.; grandson of Mrs. Julie Reiff Rucker, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Barner Lanier; great-grandson of Joan Ann Reiff.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

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

Mrs. Catherine Goudreau, Director of the Children's Fresh Air Farm

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

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45) Mary Jane Wortham Bussian, Joseph Elwood Scholl,

Gavin Andrew Vanlandingham

(11:00) Loden Margaret Falls, Andrew William Grover,

Walter Charles Grover

Independent Presbyterian Church

3100 Highland Avenue

Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

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)

ipc-usa.org