

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!

"ASK THE PASTOR" SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES has been added for the Winter Term. Join us at 10 am each Sunday to connect and reacquaint with your community of Faith, share prayer concerns, and ask questions of IPC's pastors. Register online at ipc-usa.org > connect to receive class reminders, or find a link to the Zoom class each week in our Sunday morning email.

MAKE A DONATION TO THE EASTER LILY MEMORIAL FUND to honor the memory of your loved ones. Your contribution provides fresh flowers to be displayed in the Sanctuary and Highland Hall for Easter services, and the names of your loved ones will be printed in the Easter worship bulletin. Due to COVID-19, our suppliers cannot source potted lilies so they will not be available for those who contribute. To ensure the names of loved ones are included in the bulletin, please submit your online contribution by March 10 at ipc-usa.org > connect.

IPC BOY SCOUT TROOP 28's OPEN HOUSE is Monday, March 15, at 6:30 pm. Troop 28 invites IPC friends and families with 11-year-olds or Cub Scouts to get more information about joining the oldest Boy Scout Troop in the District (no Scouting experience is necessary). Come learn more about our Troop during their regular meeting in Highland Hall Garage and Patio Mondays at 6:30 pm and enjoy some Scout-prepared treats! This is a great opportunity for prospective Scouts and their families meet the guys, ask questions, and have some fun! For more information, please contact Kendall Holman at kendallholman@bellsouth.net or Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

ON EASTER SUNDAY celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Worship with us Sunday, April 4, in person at 7 am, 9 am, and 11 am in the sanctuary; at 5 pm in Highland Hall; or via livestream at 11 am on YouTube and Facebook. To attend in person, please make a reservation and review our safety protocols online at ipc-usa.org > worship. Currently, our sanctuary is open to 100 participants and Highland Hall is open to 75 participants. As we approach capacity for the Easter services, the Re-Opening Task Force continues to monitor data to determine if additional seating can be opened at a later date. Please watch for additional information.

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 -
jmcllelland@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

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer Interim Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkins Interim Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care
Nick Mathes Sound

Cover: *Shine*, painting by Mike Moyers in 2013.
"A painting of a simple candle reminding us to be light to the world."

"It is an honor and a joy to share my work with you. For years, I have illustrated, designed and directed many book covers, ads, logos, commercials and campaigns. However, my deeper side is the life of a fine artist. I love to paint with the palette knife to keep my work loose, textured and bold. You will see that I paint all kinds of subjects. My deepest passion, however, is to use fine art to communicate matters of faith."

"I firmly believe that art is a communion with the soul. Through my art, I strive to make known the beauty and wonder of life and faith. The pieces in this exhibit are inspired by things that have touched my life in a meaningful way. They range from plein air and impressionism to abstract and conceptual. My hope is to successfully communicate those inspirations so that you might be touched as well."

Image and text 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 7, 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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:

God, give us faith that whatever ought to be will be. May we be confident that we can do whatever Thy will is that we shall do. May we find out Thy way, may we join ourselves to it, then leave all the rest with Thee.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

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**

"Blessed Are the Merciful"

Welcome

Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: When we look at your heavens, the work of your hands the moon, and the stars and the sun that you have established:

People: What are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us?

Leader: Therefore, let us worship the Lord.

Psalm 8:3-4

+**Hymn of Praise #450**

"Be Thou My Vision"

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, in Christ you make all things whole. Transform the ground of our nature by the illumination of your grace. Then, through the renewal of our lives, empower us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. 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 5:13-16, 6:1-4

Sermon: *Two Cheers for Enthusiasm*

RESPONDING

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

Musical Reflection

"Salt & Light"

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: *"Until That Day Comes"*
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

+**Closing Hymn #541**

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

+**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*