

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 74, No. 18 May 2, 2021

Service for the Lord's Day

eight forty-five o'clock and eleven o'clock

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

Pews with cushions are available for seating.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Thou, Who workest in us—O Thou, Who movest through us, we know now that we ourselves are the hindrance. We are not ready for the Guest, our houses would be disarranged. We are not ready to awake and that the lamps in our souls should be lighted. O, make us prudent enough to forget, make us careful enough to leave the doors open. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness".....J. S. Bach

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 quietness, His peace.

GREETING

Minister: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Clayton

INTROIT - "O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me"..... George Thalben-Ball

O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me: whither shall I go then from thy presence?

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 485 - "We Know That Christ Is Raised" ..... ENGELBERG

*CALL TO WORSHIP..... Mr. Tyler

Minister: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you;

People: You who fear the Lord, praise him!

Minister: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

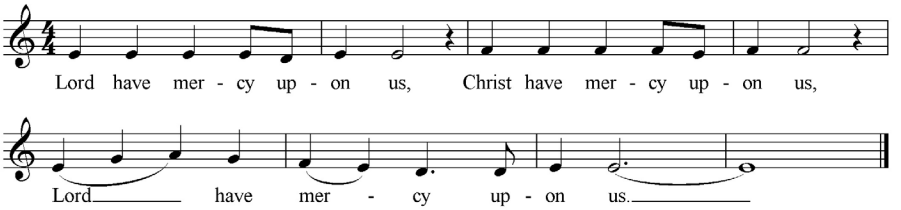
All: Let us praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Holy and Gracious God: Your Spirit calls us to go beyond our ordinary paths, to strike out with hope and faith into unknown places, to encounter strangers as well as friends. Often, in our fear, we shrink from your call. Help us to remember that often it is in foreign places and among people who are very different from ourselves that we encounter you most clearly. Help us to open our eyes to the holy surprises along the way. Help us to have the courage to be a part of setting a bigger table so that more and more of your beloved children can find their seat and take part in the feast you have prepared. In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service*)



DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Acts 8:26-40

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 529 - "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" ..... UNION SEMINARY

SERMON - MAKING ROOM AT THE FAMILY TABLE.....
Rev. Clayton

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED (*In unison)*.....Mrs. Goudreau

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please continue to remember to support the church. Even during this time when in-person attendance is limited, we do have basic necessary bills to cover. Offerings may be submitted online by clicking here, by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts.

* The Offertory Statement

* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....
OLD HUNDREDTH

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – "Christ the Appletree" .....Stanford Scriven

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compar'd with Christ the appletree. This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the appletree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I miss'd of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the appletree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the appletree. I'm weary'd with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the appletree.

The Eucharist

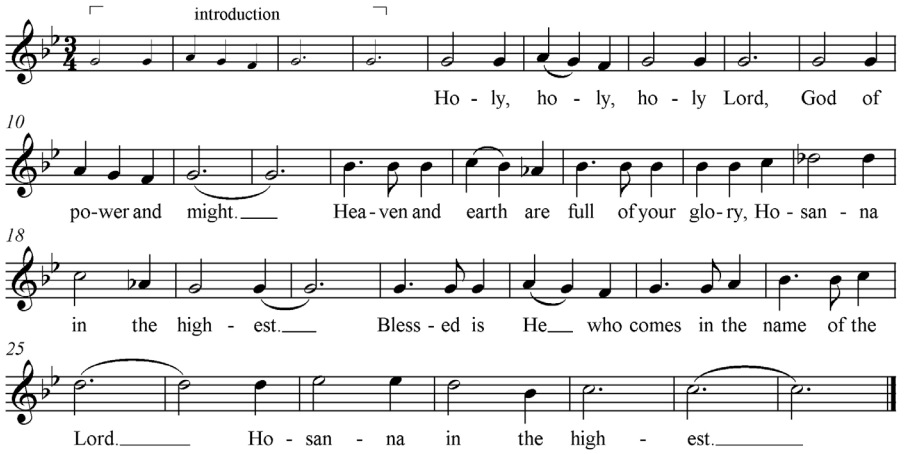
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE.....Rev. Seamon

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

SANCTUS (from *The Independent Service*)



The minister continues in prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (from *The Independent Service*)



The minister continues in prayer.

AMEN (from *The Independent Service*)



THE LORD'S PRAYER (*In unison*)

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"I sat down under His shadow".....Edward C. Bairstow

I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:3-4

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

*HYMN 610 - "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"..... AZMON

* CHARGE

* BENEDICTION .....Rev. Clayton

* POSTLUDE - "Psalm XIX"..... Benedetto Marcello

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S ONLINE VISITORS! We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please contact us for more information: Stacy Pulliam at 205.933.3690 or spulliam@ipc-usa.org and Cindy Shaw at 205.933.3696 or cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the Children's Chapel are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Michael Robertson McDaniel. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in honor of William David Self, Lieutenant, US Army, Vietnam War; husband of Jo Self.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION of Independent Presbyterian Church is called to be held in the sanctuary today on Sunday, May 2, 2021, beginning at the commencement of the 11 a.m. service and continuing thereafter, for the purposes of hearing a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee for the position of Pastor/Head of Staff and approving the terms of call for their proposed candidate. No other business shall be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session, Dr. Stephen Goyer, Moderator, and Beverley Krannich, Clerk. Those with a reservation for the 11 am worship service are invited to stay after the congregational meeting for a reception and box lunch.

A NEW COFFEE HOUR is now held in the cloister of the church each Sunday 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!

NEXT SUNDAY AT IPC: May 9 is High School Senior and Senior Acolyte Recognition Sunday and Children's Fresh Air Farm Appeal Sunday. At the 11 am worship service, we will recognize our soon-to-be high school graduates and all of our senior acolytes for their many years of service to the congregation. At both morning services, we'll recognize the Children's Fresh Air Farm and the impact of its ministry over the last 98 years.

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: Join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 16, at 4:00 pm for a Choral Evensong with the IPC Choir. The service includes music by David Hogan, T. Tertius Noble, William Smith, and William Byrd. Rev. David Seamon will be the Officiant and Cantor.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: In memory of John London.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: *(Chapel Fund)* In memory of Judge James H. Hancock, Sr., and Mr. Frank L. "Bud" VanDeman III. *(Horizon Fund)* In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds. *(Life Care Fund)* In memory of Mr. Robert G. "Bob" Tate.

KNITTING MINISTRY: In memory of Myrtle Fain Matthews, Samuel C. Matthews, and Elaine Hoover.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congregational Care and Adult Faith Formation
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Mrs. Catherine Goudreau, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, CFAF
Mr. JD Tyler, Director of Youth Faith Formation
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Members of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir
Acolytes: *(8:45 a.m.)* Ernest Hugh Cowart, Jr., Sarah Elizabeth Cowart
(11:00 a.m.) Olivia Ann Vanlandingham

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Interim Pastor
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This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.ipc-usa.org