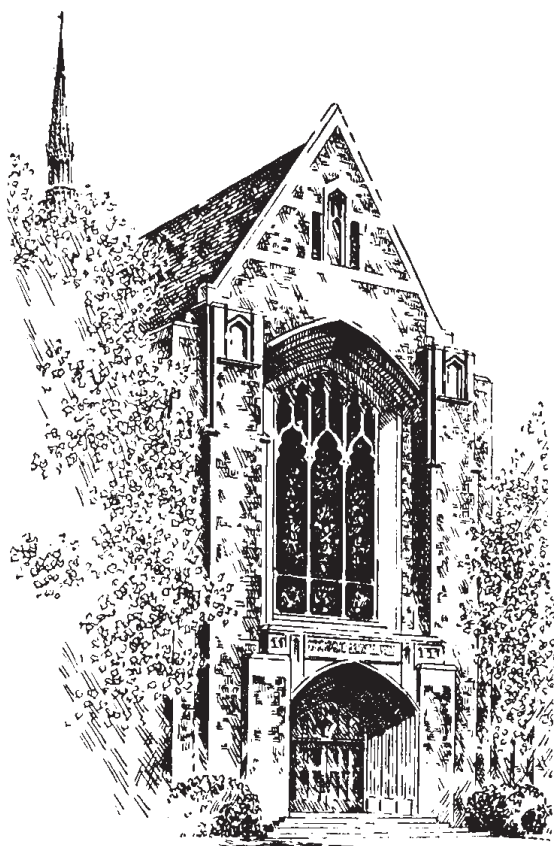


Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 16, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We ask Thy peace, O Christ. The world gives a peace which we have tried. We seek Thine – the peace that compasses all the years, that defeats all the storms, that trusts where it cannot see, that keeps its face toward the light and goes quietly on. *from “Beginning the Day” by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Look, O Look, the Sight is Glorious"Robert Powell
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 WORSHIPRev. Clayton
Minister: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created.
People: **He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**
Minister: He is the head of the body, the church;
People: **He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.**
Minister: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
People: **And through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things by making peace through the blood of his cross.**
Colossians 1:15-20

* **HYMN 234** - "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"ST. KEVIN

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Unison: **God of Mercy, in Jesus Christ you have brought light into the darkness. But we confess that we have chosen to remain in the darkness where we have made our home. You would give us life, but we have grown accustomed to death. You would give us love, but we have nurtured resentment too long. You would give us hope, but we are afraid hope will disappoint us once again. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us for being afraid of your salvation. Through the risen Savior 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
MOMENT FOR MISSION: Racial Wealth Gap Simulation.....
David Woodruff

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 16 (*Pew Bible*, p. OT495-496)
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 - “Quia vidisti me, Thoma” Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Quia vidisti me, Thoma credidisti. Beati qui non viderunt et crediderunt.
Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. *John 20:29*

SECOND LESSON - John 20:19-31 (*Pew Bible*, p. NT115)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - THE LAST BEATITUDE OF CHRIST Rev. Westfall

The Response to the Word

*HYMN 213 - "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"RATHBUN

*APOSTLES' CREED Rev. Long
**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 – "Now is the hour of darkness past"
Daniel Pinkham
Alleluia. Now is the hour of darkness past; Christ hath assumed the reigning
pow'r. Behold the great accuser cast Down from the skies, to rise no more.
Alleluia. 'Twas by thy blood, immortal Lamb, Thine armies trod the tempter
down: 'Twas by thy word and pow'rful name They gained the battle and renown.
Alleluia. Rejoice, ye heav'ns! let ev'ry star Shine with new glories round the
sky! Saints, while ye sing the heav'nly war, Raise your Redeemer's name on
high. Alleluia!

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 233 - "The Day of Resurrection!"LANCASHIRE
- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE - "At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing" Robert Powell
- * *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 Virginia Talbot Markle. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Herschel Talmadge Bergin, Submarine Fireman Second Class, U.S. Navy, WWII; father of Sherry Bergin Timberlake.

TODAY WE WELCOME to IPC the Rev. Sue Westfall as our guest preacher. Since January of 2020, Rev. Westfall has been the General Presbyter of Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery. Prior to coming to Birmingham, she worked with Macedonian Ministries in Atlanta as a colleague of the Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell, our recent Focus on Faith speaker. Please extend to Rev. Westfall a warm IPC welcome!

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.

LIFE AFTER LOSS: 6 WEEK IPC GRIEF GROUP: On Wednesday, April 19, IPC will begin a 6-week grief group at either 10 am or 12 pm (time TBD by the participants) to provide a compassionate space for people to share the complicated emotional and spiritual experiences that accompany our grief after any significant loss in our lives. The sessions will be facilitated by one of our resident counselors, Dr. Stewart A. Jackson, LMFT, and Rev. Susan A. Clayton will also participate. To sign up and to select a time preference, please visit ipc-usa.org/connect or contact Connie Logan at clogan@ipc-usa.org.

LEARN TO KNIT: Have you ever wanted to learn to knit? Join IPC's Knitting Ministry Team on Thursday, April 20 or 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.

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. Spots are limited so please register by Wednesday, April 19, at ipc-usa.org/connect.

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 Highland 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.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM: In memory of William Horton, Harold Lassen, and Jean Hancock Morgan.

IPC FOOD MINISTRIES: In honor of Pat Pelham.

IPC SOCIAL SERVICES: In memory of Judy Hill. In honor of Rev. Susan Clayton.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mr. Robert T. "Bob" Hollingshead, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Ogard, Mrs. Catherine Olive, Mrs. Shirley A. Shelton, and Mrs. Miriam S. Taylor. (*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.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Sue Westfall, General Presbyter of Sheppards and Lapsley
Presbytery

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

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45) Lindsey Ryan Scholl, Charlotte Goodner Walthall
(11:00) Katherine Evans Austin, John Samuel Meriwether IV,
Samuel Bernard Steiner

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

ipc-usa.org