

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.

THE IPC BLESSING BOXES need your help! We are running low on many items that our neighbors need. 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.

IPC FOUNDATION LUNCH & LEARN: Join us Tuesday, May 2, from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Great Hall large dining room. We will learn more about the work of Teach for America - Alabama from Executive Director Damon Bailey. The cost of lunch is \$10 and can be paid online at ipc-usa.org/connect or at the door.

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. As a highlight, consider attending the Peace Concert Benefiting Ukrainian Refugees on Saturday, May 6, at 7 pm at the Alys Stephens Center (\$25) as part of Birmingham Peace Week (May 1-7).

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.

IPC’S BREAD FOR THE WORLD team invites you to join them in the Offering of Letters. Representatives from the team will be in the Parlor following both worship services on May 7 and 21. Join in on this national effort and learn more at bread.org.

CONNECT WITH IPC’S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
Pastor
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Rev. Susan Clayton
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Courtney Kraus
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Kenya Glasco
Nursery Coordinator
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Rev. Susan A. Clayton	Associate Pastor, Congregational Care
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
Randell Cooper	Bass
Elliott Gray	Drums
Tommy Bowen	Horns
Deena Emaish	Vocals
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Em Wooley	Vocals
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: Window in the west wall of the north aisle of All Saints Church, Childwall (suburb of Liverpool), England. The window shows the resurrected but unrecognized Jesus giving thanks over the bread before breaking it and giving it to Cleopas and his companion (presumed to be Luke) in the village of Emmaus.

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

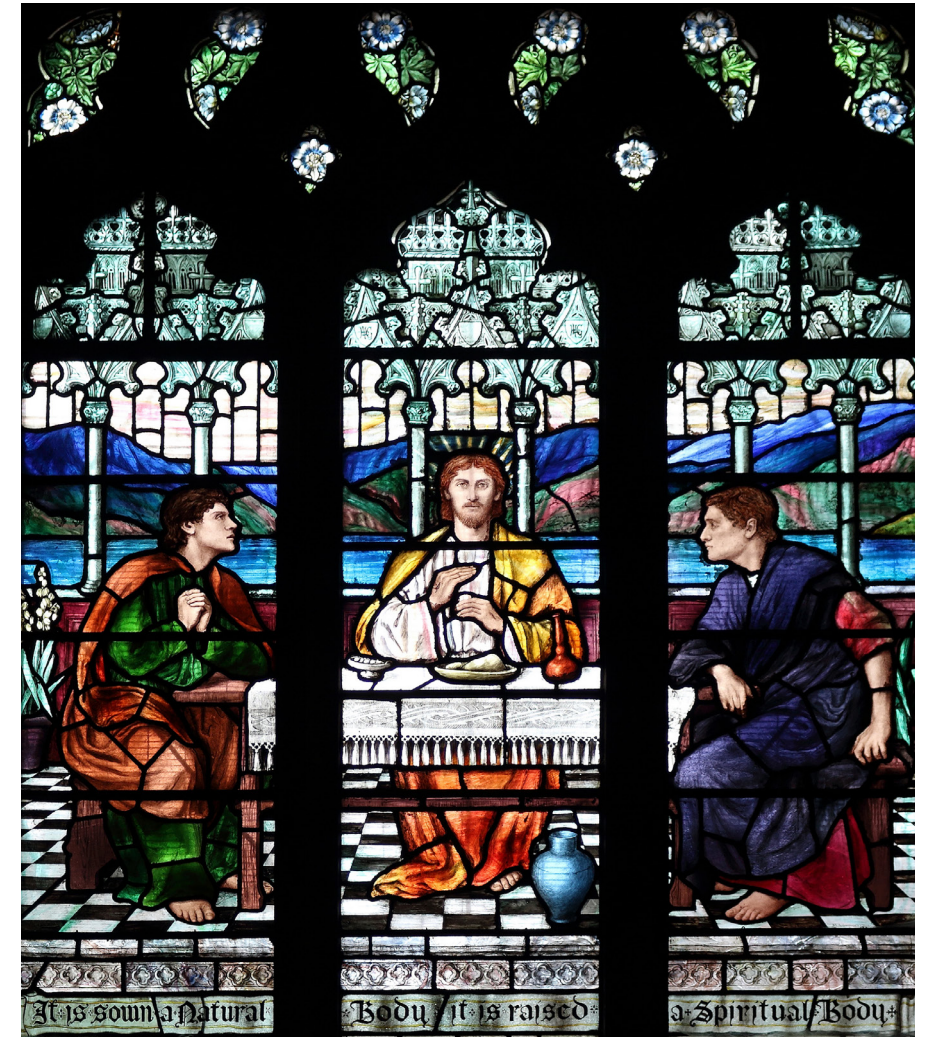


Independent Presbyterian Church

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



APRIL 30, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

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:

The sun calls and the buried seeds of another summer spring out of the earth. Wild flowers are on all the hills. May it be so with my soul. In me are smothered aspirations after God, virtues trampled and crowded out by rubbish and the heaviness of my rude walking. Rise, O Sun of righteousness, and call the flowers into bloom. Amen.

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 Easter as signified by the color white. Easter isn’t just a Sunday — it’s a season. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a “week of weeks”), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church.

Of course, Easter really isn’t just a season either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11), called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; God’s praise shall continually be in my mouth.
People: **My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**
Leader: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.
People: **O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God’s name together.**
Leader: Let us praise the Lord!

Gathering Songs “A Thousand Hallelujahs”
“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of mercy, whose loving-kindness endures forever: we confess that often we have failed to receive and give love; to care for others as we care for ourselves; to forgive and accept forgiveness. We remember good intentions that were not put into actions; harsh words that were hurtful; selfish purposes that caused pain; persistent pride that would not yield. We acknowledge how often we face life and death with fear and fail to accept the redemption you offer us in Christ. Help us remember, O God, that we are Easter people, who can trust in the promise of resurrection and new life promised to us through our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Please exchange the peace with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

Confessional Response “Gloria Patri”

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: Finding Easter Along the Way

RESPONDING

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

Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”

Sharing of Gifts

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty.

Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

- Prayers of the People and 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.
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Song: “Only Grace”
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn “Amazing Grace”

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.*