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!

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION immediately after worship next Sunday, March 28, for the purpose of ratifying a Pastor Nominating Committee to initiate calling David Seamon as a PCUSA Pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church.

"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.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON of Lent and Easter at IPC. Visit ipc-usa.org to find virtual and in-person opportunities to worship more fully during Holy Week including: Palm Sunday, March 28, at 11 am and 5 pm; Maundy Thursday, April 1, at 7 pm; Good Friday, April 2, at noon; and Easter Sunday, April 4, at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am, and 5 pm. All services are available in-person; reservations are required. The 5 pm services are held in Highland Hall and all others in the sanctuary. Livestream is available for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and all 11 am services. To find our services via livestream, search @IPCBirmingham on YouTube and Facebook.

REGISTRATION FOR VBS AND BTMP is now open for members. Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held May 17-20 in the Day School classrooms for ages: 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s. Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP) will be held June 7-11 at the Children's Fresh Air Farm for children who have completed K5-5th grade. Completed 6-12th graders are eligible to be Tribal Assistants. Registration forms are available at ipc-usa.org > connect.

EASTER EGG HUNT: We invite friends and families to our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, at Highland Hall from 9 -11 am. Make a reservation at ipc-usa.org/connect to enjoy a fun morning of egg hunts, Atrium work, Bunny Brunch, and Easter Bunny photos.

OBSERVE THE SEDER TRADITION from home this year using IPC's Seder Kit. The Passover meal, or Seder, is one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish faith. Join us as we explore what this traditional celebration means to our Christianity. Reserve dinner and/or a kit to pick up curbside at ipc.usa-org/connect.

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 -
jmclelland@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: *The Worship of Mammon*, by Evelyn de Morgan, oil painting on canvas, circa 1909.

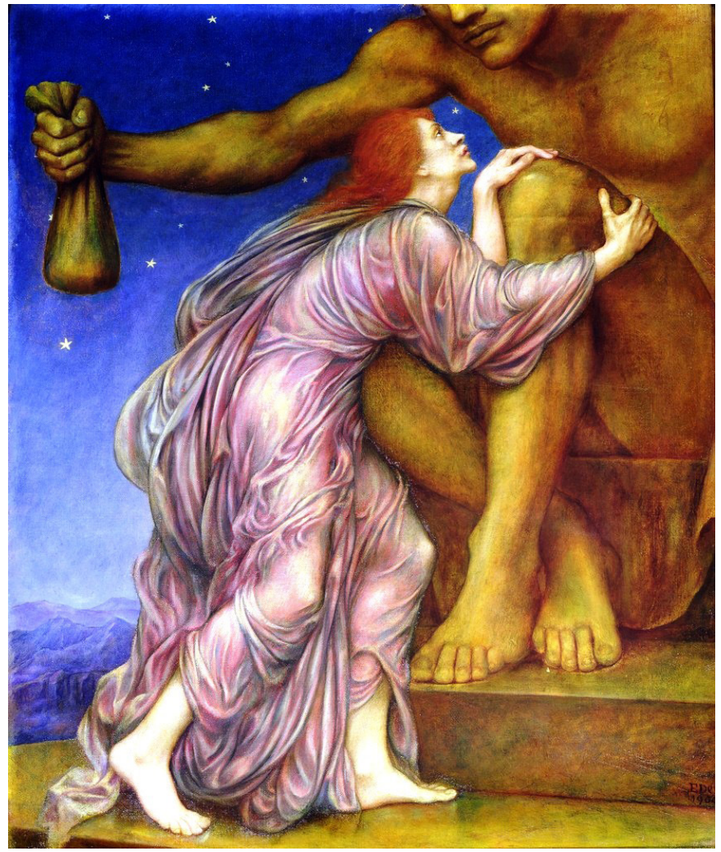
Mammon is a Biblical term for "riches." More specifically, it means the "debasing influence of material wealth." In this painting, a woman is so desperate for more wealth that she ignores the not-as-plump-as-it-could-be moneybag that the male Mammon offers as she clutches his knee to beg for more. It is worth noting here that de Morgan supported women's suffrage and--thanks to her mother--received the same education as her brother. The choice of a female figure begging for money from a male figure as well as the centering of the painting on the female figure (the male's face is cut off) are likely a deliberate social commentary.

De Morgan studied a lot of classical mythology and used a lot of symbolic colors and themes in her paintings; here, the woman wears clothes that remind us of draped Roman clothing. The color matches a highly prized and incredibly expensive ancient dye, often called Tyrian purple, obtained from sea snail mucus. This dye was so expensive that Rome created stricter and stricter sumptuary laws decreeing who could wear the color and how. At one point, it was so expensive, even the empress could not afford a new garment made with it. That the woman in the painting wears an entire dress with lots of extra folds of expensive fabric indicates that she is very wealthy indeed and emphasizes the depth of her debasement.
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



March 21, 2021

The Fifth 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 Hymn #450*** *"Be Thou My Vision"*

Welcome

Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: Jesus, Light of the world,
People: Give us eyes to see as you see!
Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now
People: As children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.
Leader: Jesus, Light of the world,
People: Give us eyes to see as you see!

Inspired by John 9

+***Hymn of Praise #65*** *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

Listening

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Healing God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance, and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow your holy way. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray, 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 6:19-34

Sermon: The Dos and Don'ts of Discipleship

Responding

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

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers

Musical Reflection *"Seek Ye First"*

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: *"We Labor Unto Glory"*
- 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*