



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

March 28, 2024

6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday

GATHERING

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord Jesus Christ, as you wash the feet of your disciples make us ready to follow you, loving and serving one another in your name. Amen.

PRELUDE - "Adagio for Strings"..... Samuel Barber
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.

WELCOME Rev. Long

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

People: **Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.**

*HYMN 202 - "An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare" O WALY WALY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON (*All Singing*)..... Healey Willan

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Minister: Let us stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.
Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."

LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

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

ANTHEM - "Ubi caritas" Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us revere and love the living God. And from a sincere heart let us love one another. Amen. *The Antiphony*

SECOND LESSON - John 13:1-17, 31b-35.....Rev. Seamon

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

HOMILY - I AM LOVE(D) Rev. Seamon

*HYMN 209 - "My Song Is Love Unknown".....LOVE UNKNOWN

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLERev. Clayton

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.

SANCTUS (*All Singing*) Healey Willan

6 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly,

10 Lord God of Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full__

14 __ of thy glo - ry. Glo - - ry be to

18 thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed__ is he that

22 com - eth__ in__ the name__ of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est

The minister continues in prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The minister continues in prayer; and then all pray together:

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.

AGNUS DEI (*All Singing*).....Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION

"Drop, Drop, Slow Tears"James L. Klein
 Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet, which brought from heav'n the news and Prince of peace. Cease not wet eyes, His mercies to entreat; To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease. In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; Nor let His eye see sin, but through my tears. *Phineas Fletcher*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister: God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior. As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE PARAMENTS

PSALM 22.....Tone IV

All depart in silence. The service continues on Good Friday at noon.

**Congregation standing*

About the Service

THE LAST ELEMENT to be removed during the liturgical stripping of the sanctuary is the Bible, God's Word, starkly symbolizing the reality of Christ's suffering and death for those who believe.

NOTE ABOUT COMMUNION: We will receive communion by intinction. This is one of several traditional ways of participating in the sacrament. It simply involves receiving a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. The congregation will go to the front row by row and approach the chancel area where a minister and an elder will have the bread and the cup for you. After taking communion, you may return to your seat by the side aisles.

THE SERVICE MUSIC is from *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* by Healey Willan, ©1928 Oxford University Press. Used by permission, CCLI License #11113711.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday before Easter is commonly called "Maundy Thursday" because of the command of Christ in the Upper Room, given to his disciples following the washing of the feet and the departure of Judas Iscariot, and recorded in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin *mandatum* which is also the beginning of the text of Christ's command in Latin, and so is the beginning of the first antiphon of the ceremony of the washing of the feet in the Latin Church: "*Mandatum novum*" ("a new command"). The word is similar to the Scottish and North English word, "*maun*," meaning "must." It is related to "mandate," "mandatory" and "mandamus," which all derive from Latin *mandare*, to command. Since there are several commands of our Lord associated with the Last Supper, the word "maundy" has been associated with them all, chiefly: "This do in remembrance of me," which was his command at the breaking of the bread, and is the command associated with the inauguration of the holy sacrament. Since the sacrament was first ordered then, at the table on Thursday evening, this is thought of as the primary command or mandate having significance for the day. But one other command has historical association also with the Thursday name because of the annual observance on that night of foot-washing ceremonial: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet." Thus Maundy Thursday has become "the day of the mandate," *dies mandati*.

The Rev. John N. Lukens
Pastor, Independent Presbyterian Church, (1948 - 1967)

HOLY WEEK EVENTS
Sunday, March 24 - Sunday, March 31

Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 12 pm (noon) in the Sanctuary
A penitential service. Childcare available.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 10 am - 12 pm (noon) in Highland Hall
Light breakfast, egg hunts, crafts, and a visit from the Easter Bunny

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31

8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

11:00 am in Highland Hall

Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
No Sunday School. Childcare available.

Participants in Tonight's Service

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed.
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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