

## 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.

**WELCOME REV. KEVIN J. LONG:** IPC joyfully announces its eighth pastor and head of staff in our church’s 105-year history. Our congregation unanimously voted Sunday, May 2, to extend a call to Rev. Long. Following the vote, he and his family were introduced to the congregation amid enthusiastic and warm applause and greeted at a reception held in their honor. Learn more about Rev. Long and his family at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org). We offer a heartfelt thank you to IPC’s Pastor Nominating Committee. The committee’s deep love for IPC and its commitment to prayerfully and diligently work together led us to Rev. Long as our next pastor.

**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!

**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.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER:** Adult volunteers are needed at this year’s Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP). VBS will held in the Day School Classrooms May 17-20 from 9 am to noon. If you can help at VBS, please email Caroline Benefield at [caroline.hughes22@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.hughes22@gmail.com) with your availability that week. BTMP will be held at the Children’s Fresh Air Farm June 7-11 from 9 am to 2 pm. If you can help at BTMP, please contact Rollins Thorpe at [rollinsthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:rollinsthorpe@gmail.com). You do not need to have a child attending VBS or BTMP to serve as a volunteer; all are welcome to join us.

**2021 WOMEN’S CONFERENCE:** Join IPC for Women’s Connection in Montreat, NC, Aug. 12-15. Register online at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) by June 1 to reserve a spot with the group attending from IPC. Please contact Cathy Delozier at [cathy@sowowme.com](mailto:cathy@sowowme.com) with any questions about the trip.

## TALK WITH THE PREACHER

David is available for conversations by appointment. Please email [dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto: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](mailto:sgoyer@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. Susan Clayton**  
Associate Pastor of Adult and Community Ministries  
[sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. David Seamon**  
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation  
[dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org)

**Dr. Jeff McLelland**  
Director of Fine Arts & Music -  
[jmcllland@ipc-usa.org](mailto:jmcllland@ipc-usa.org)

**Catherine Goudreau**  
Director of Children and Youth  
CFAF Programming Director  
[cgoudreau@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cgoudreau@ipc-usa.org)

**Kay Roller**  
Director of Childrens Faith Formation  
[kroller@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kroller@ipc-usa.org)

**Stacy Pulliam**  
Director of Member Engagement and Assimilation  
[spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org)

**Kenya Glasco**  
Nursery Coordinator-  
[kglasco@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kglasco@ipc-usa.org)

**Kathy Leaver**  
Director of IPC Day School  
[kleaver@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kleaver@ipc-usa.org)

Beth Middleton  
Assistant Director of Music and Fine Arts & Music Coordinator for 5pm Worship  
[bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org)

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

<b>Rev. David J. Seamon</b>	Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
<b>Beth Middleton</b>	Music Coordinator
<b>Sarah Mason</b>	Worship Leader
<b>Jim Walker</b>	Acoustic Guitar
<b>Fred Rogan</b>	Steel Guitar
<b>Annie Norris</b>	Vocals
<b>Nick Mathes</b>	Sound

Cover: Sculpture of *Love* in Manhattan, New York.

This sculpture and several other similar ones are based on a 1960s pop art image by American artist Robert Indiana. Other notable locations include Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and New Castle, Indiana. The image has even inspired similar sculptures of the same word, “Love,” in other languages in other countries such as Russian in Moscow, Russia, and in Hebrew in Jerusalem, Israel. Usually painted in bright red with blue shadowing, the sculptures are often a popular tourist attraction as well as a beloved local icon to residents.

*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](http://www.ipc-usa.org) | [www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham](https://www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham)  
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



MAY 9, 2021

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



<div>WELCOME TO THE TABLE</div> <div>Open · Affirming · Welcoming</div> <div>WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Table.</div> <div>As you prepare yourself for worship,</div> <div>we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:</div> <div><i>Love is holy because it is like grace—the worthiness of its object is never really what matters.</i></div> <div>– Marilynne Robinson</div>
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**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).

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*: For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we acclaim the resurrection of Christ by the power of God. The period of seven weeks of jubilation can be traced back to its Jewish roots of the fifty days celebrated from the day after Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Exodus 23:16). For Jews, the Feast of Weeks closed the season of harvest, which had been initiated by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In a similar manner, early Christians observed a fifty-day period of celebration from Easter to the Day of Pentecost. To underscore the uninterrupted rejoicing of these fifty days, fasting and kneeling in prayer were forbidden at least as early as the end of the second century. On the *pentecoste* (“fiftieth”) day, not only was the fifty-day period concluded, but a festival with its own proper content was celebrated. The Jews observed a feast of covenant renewal and eventually commemorated the giving of the Law. Christians celebrated the gift of the Spirit as preparing the way for the day of the Lord. What Moses and the Law did for the Jewish community, the Holy Spirit now does for the community of Christ.

<div>IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:</div> <div>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.</div> <div>Visit our website: ipc-usa.org/welcome</div>
<div>GATHERING</div> <div>We <i>gather</i> as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God</div> <div>+<i>Gathering Song</i></div> <div><i>Welcome</i></div> <div><i>Greeting</i> Leader: Here today there is love, freely available to all. People: <b>Not our human loving, fragile and conditional, but God’s supreme love.</b>  Leader: Here today is love, higher than our loftiest hopes, deeper than the immensities of time and space, God’s inclusive love.  People: <b>Here today is love, for all God’s people, lived out in acts of justice and mercy.</b> Leader: Here today is love, as we gather around the table where Christ taught us to love one another as he has loved us.  All: <b>Come, let us worship in love!</b></div> <div>+<i>Hymn of Praise #366</i>                      <i>“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”</i></div>

**LISTENING**

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

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**  
God of compassion and mercy, you sent us your Son, who told us to love one another as much as you love us. Yet, we struggle to love each other. We have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves. You told us to love one another, because love is from God. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love the way you command us to love. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world. Amen.

*Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.*

<div><i>Assurance of Grace:</i> One: In Jesus Christ, All: <b>we are forgiven!</b></div> <div>+<i>Gloria Patri</i></div> <div><i>Prayer for Illumination</i></div> <div><i>Scripture Lesson:</i> John 15:9-17</div> <div><i>Sermon: Lessons in Love</i></div>
<div>RESPONDING</div> <div>We <i>respond</i> to the hearing of God’s word through reflection, prayer, offering and communion</div> <div><i>Musical Reflection</i>                      <i>“The Greatest Commandment”</i></div> <div><i>Sharing of Gifts</i> <i>In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty. Please place your gifts in the plate in the back as you leave.</i></div> <div><i>Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer</li><li>- Words of Institution</li><li>- Communion of the People</li><li>- Song: <i>“How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”</i></li><li>- Prayer after Communion</li></ul></div>
<div>SENDING</div> <div>We are <i>sent</i> out into the world to love God and our neighbors</div> <div>+<i>Closing Hymn #300</i>                      <i>“We Are One in the Spirit: (They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)”</i></div> <div>+<i>Benediction</i></div> <div><i>Postlude</i>  <i>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.</i></div> <div>+<i>Rise in Body or Spirit</i></div>