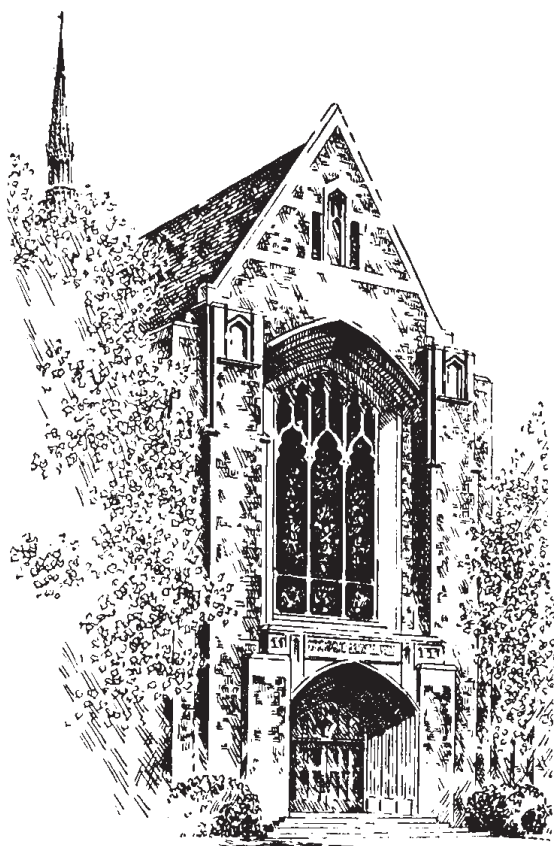


# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Ascension Sunday

May 16, 2021

eight forty-five o'clock  
eleven o'clock

**Service for the Lord's Day**

The Gathering for Worship  
**Pews with cushions are available for seating.**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

O God, save me from the poverty of keeping too much. Make me a spender. May I give of substance and self and everything. May I learn from Thee, giving everywhere and all the time--giving of sun and air and beauty and life. O Thou giving God, call me to the laughter of great giving.  
*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

**PRELUDE** - "Chorale and Improvisation on *Darwall's 148th*" .....  
Charles Callahan

*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.*

**GREETING** ..... Dr. Goyer  
Minister: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT** - "O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me" .....  
George Thalben-Ball  
O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me: whither shall I go then from thy presence?

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**  
**People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**  
Minister: Let us worship the Lord!

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 260** - "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ..... HYFRYDOL

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ..... Rev. Clayton (*eight forty-five*)  
Rev. Seamon (*eleven o'clock*)  
**Unison: Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is the head of the church, his body.**

*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, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\* GLORIA PATRI (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

ANTHEM - "I will not leave you comfortless" ..... William Byrd  
I will not leave you comfortless, Alleluia. I go and come again to you, Alleluia.  
And your heart shall rejoice, Alleluia. *John 14:18*

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS (*eleven o'clock*).....Mrs. Pulliam  
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" .....SCHUMANN  
**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**  
**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*eleven o'clock*).....Rev. Seamon

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ..... Dr. Goyer

MORNING LESSON - Acts 1:6-11

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - IT IS NOT FOR US TO KNOW.....Dr. Goyer

The Response to the Word

\* APOSTLES' CREED ..... Rev. Clayton

**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 – "Lay Me Low" from *Shaker Songs* .....  
arr. Kevin Siegfried

Lay me low. Where the Lord can find me, Where the Lord can own me, Where  
the Lord can bless me. Lay me low.

## 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 263 - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" ..... CORONATION

\* CHARGE

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE - "Trumpet Tune" ..... Douglas Wagner

*\* Congregation standing*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S ONLINE VISITORS!

We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please contact us for more information: Stacy Pulliam at 205.933.3690 or [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org) and Cindy Shaw at 205.933.3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org).

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Merrill H. Stewart, Sr. THE ROSE in the Children's Chapel is given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth on May 5, 2021, of Louise Margaret McBrayer, daughter of Frannie Chenoweth McBrayer and Ben McBrayer. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Donald Anthony Waitzman, Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps; B-24 bombardier in the European theatre of operations, WWII; father of Diane Waitzman Beck; grandfather of Mallie Beck Rigs and Maggie Beck.

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 today at 4:00 pm for a Choral Evensong with the IPC Choir. Evensong is the Service of Evening Prayer sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of the day with gratitude, and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming week. The worship is truly ecumenical, drawing from traditions dating to the fourth century. It focuses on finding God through purposeful quiet and through the senses with the aid of music and incense. This month's service is celebratory for the Ascension and includes music by David Hogan, T. Tertius Noble, William Smith, and William Byrd. Rev. David Seamon will be the Officiant and Cantor. Reservations are not required, but please follow all masking and social distancing protocols.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

CIRCLE V meets tomorrow, Monday, May 17th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Garage at Highland Hall.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER:** Adult volunteers are needed at this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP). VBS will be 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.

**IPC FOUNDATION'S Summer Lunch & Learn Series** kicks off in May. Invite a friend and join us each month to learn about various local organizations that are improving lives in our area. For the first event on May 27, we will hear from Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA!) CEO Isabel Rubio in the Great Hall from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Lunch is \$10, and you can pay at the door or online. Please make a reservation or find the full calendar online at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect).

**2021 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:** Join IPC for Women's Connection in Montreat, NC, August 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.

**HELP OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS.** Highlands United Methodist Church is serving those in need in the community by providing toiletries and a sack lunch to each person who comes. IPC is helping Highland United Methodist Church to provide 50 sacked lunches every Tuesday for the homeless. Sign up to serve in May at [ipc-usa.org/connect/links.html](http://ipc-usa.org/connect/links.html)

**PAY IT FORWARD** through IPC's Buy a Meal, Share a Meal partnership with Rojo. To help feed people in Highland Park who are suffering from food insecurity, you can purchase a meal from Rojo for your family and purchase another for a family in need. You can also call Rojo to pay for a meal to be donated or make donations to IPC's Social Services Fund.

## SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds.  
(*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Mr. Robert G. "Bob" Tate.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Ashley Alsbaugh with child Foster  
Sissy and David Austin with children Lucy, William, and Austin  
Virginia and Chase Couch with children Hill and Walker  
Mrs. Amanda Davis  
Tammy and Eric Ponder  
Katie and Rob Sorabella with children Madeline, Julie, and Dorothy

## BAPTISM TODAY

**SPENCER DALE MADDOX, JR. ("JR")**, born February 7, 2021, son of Priscilla Frances Pearson Maddox and Spencer Dale Maddox; grandson of Mrs. Karen P. Pearson and Mr. Theodore R. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Maddox.

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### Participants in Today's Services

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Interim Pastor  
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed  
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation  
Mrs. Stacy Pulliam, Engagement and Assimilation Coordinator  
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts  
Mr. Gregory Roberson, Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir  
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir  
Acolytes: (*eight forty-five*) Olivia Ann Vanlandingham  
(*eleven o'clock*) Charlotte Goodner Walthall

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Independent Presbyterian Church  
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Phone: (205)933-1830; Fax: (205)933-1836  
Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday  
*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
**www.ipc-usa.org**