

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.

IPC MARRIAGE EVENT: Join us for a one-night marriage event on Friday, May 13, at Clubhouse on Highland from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Whether you’re newly engaged or have been married 50 years, this event is applicable to any married couple. Registration (\$20/couple) includes dinner and drinks. Nursery care is available for babies - 2s, and there will be an IPC Kid’s Fun Night for 3s - 6th graders, both at IPC. Register at ipc-usa.org/connect.

FOCUS ON FAITH EVENT: Join us Sunday, May 15, for our Focus on Faith speaker Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiley, Director for Major Gifts at Columbia Theological Seminary. Rev. Wiley will lecture on “U.S. Immigration and its Effect on Religion” during the 10 am Sunday School hour in Highland Hall. A lunch with Rev. Wiley in the Great Hall Room 1 will follow the 11 am worship service. Register for lunch at ipc-usa.org/connect.

TABLE COOKOUT: Gather with us on Sunday, May 15, after the 5 pm Table worship service for a supper in the Garage (Highland Hall) at 6 pm.

JOIN US FOR BEER & HYMNS on Monday, May 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Iron City Grill, 2208 6th Avenue South. We sing old-time hymns (plus a few new ones) while enjoying good food and beverages.

FAMILY FEST: Join IPC and other local churches for a Family Fest event at the Crestline Elementary Fields on Sunday, May 8, 5 pm - 7 pm. This free event will feature inflatables, crafts, and games for children and youth. Local Mountain Brook vendors including Mountain Brook Creamery, Craft’s, and Post Office Pies will also be there.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support of our IPC Food Ministries. The Blessing Boxes receive many visitors, and we remain in need of food and hygiene items. We are preparing 200 bags for Hayes K-8 in May and then 100 bags each month in June and July for our Summer Learning Program families. To help, sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect and contact Evelyn Puckett at (205) 933-3726.

LIVING RIVER (2000 Living River Parkway Montevallo, AL 35115) invites IPC for an Open-Camp Afternoon on Sunday, May 22, from 2 pm - 4 pm. Come enjoy a dedication of new and beloved camp features (IPC Chapel, Labyrinth, and Low Ropes Course), recognition of all Living River’s donors, and light refreshments. Reservations not required.

MONTREAT WOMEN’S CONNECTION CONFERENCE: Join us August 12–14 for Claimed for More: Wholehearted Living When We Are All Out of Sorts with keynote speaker Sarah Bessey. To register and sign up for housing, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org by June 1.

CONNECT WITH IPC’S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Rev. Kevin J. Long
Rev. David J. Seamon
Sarah Mason
John Scalici
William Yarbrough
Fred Rogan
Tommy Bowen
Shawny Thomas
Brian Hagan

Pastor
Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Worship Leader
Drums
Guitar
Steel Guitar
Trumpet
Vocals
Sound

Cover: *Woman of Canaan*, a print by Sadao Watanabe circa 1940-1996. Watanabe placed biblical subjects in a Japanese context rendered in the mingei (folk art) approach.

Image and text courtesy of the Vanderbilt Jean and Alexander Heard Divinity Libraries.



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



MAY 8, 2022
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF 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:

“God be thanked for mothers; for their revelations of Thee in willingness to pour out blood of body and soul for us. God be merciful to mothers; that they may see of the travail of their hearts and be satisfied in strong and gracious sons and daughters. God be merciful to mothers, who are mothers in yearning only. Give them a spiritual motherhood in mothering the motherless everywhere, and may they find surcease in Thee, O Answerer of prayer”

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 give praise to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
People: **I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**
Leader: The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
People: **Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.**
Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion, proclaim among the nations what he has done.
People: **Let us worship the Lord our God.** Psalm 9:1-2, 9-11

- +**Gathering Songs** “Rising Sun”
“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)**
Lord Jesus, as you have come to us, let us now come to you. Our hearts are cold. Warm them with your selfless love. Our hearts are sinful. Cleanse them with your precious blood. Our hearts are weak. Strengthen them with your joyous Spirit. Our hearts are empty. Fill them with your divine presence. Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours. Possess them always and only for yourself. Amen. St. Augustine
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: Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon: Surprising Grace

RESPONDING

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

- +**Hymn** “Only Grace”

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: “Promises”
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

- +**Closing Hymn** “King of Kings”

+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*