
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. For more information about our next New Member Class on Wednesday, May 22, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

EXTENDED ATRIUM FOR LEVELS 2 & 3 TODAY: Children in 1st - 6th grade will stay in the Atrium for extra exploration today and join the congregation for Communion during the 11 am service in the sanctuary or Highland Hall.

MOTHERS' DAY NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 12: IPC's Parent Ministry Team invites you to make a flower bouquet in honor or in memory of mothers. With the Guild's assistance, find flowers and supplies in the Parlor beginning at 9:45 am.

VOLUNTEER for the Summer Learning Program. Birmingham city children come to the Children's Fresh Air Farm each summer for 6 weeks of reading, writing, and mathematics as well as art, music, drama, science, and swimming. Sign up at ipc-usa.org. E-mail cfaf@ipc-usa.org for questions.

IPC CHOIR SPRING CONCERT: Come enjoy music by American composer Randall Thompson in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 19, at 4 pm. The concert features String Quartet No. 1 and the choral work *Frostiana*, a setting of seven poems by Robert Frost to music. A chamber orchestra will accompany the choir.

PASTOR'S NOTES

"Planting an Acorn of Faith"

Read Philippians 4:10-13 and savor each verse as if it were a favorite food or a delicious dessert.

Reflection Questions

1. Think of someone who you envy. If you had what they had, how would your life be different? For better? For worse? Be honest with yourself and with God.
2. Think of an area of your life in which you are not content. What is blocking you from contentment in that area of your life? Are you willing to truly open that area of your life to God?
3. Today's Old Testament scripture tells the story of Saul and David and how Saul's envy of David's popularity destroyed him. In what way have you seen envy be a destructive force in your life or in the life of someone you know and love? What can you do about it?
4. Tom Tewell mentioned that gratitude and contentment are the antidotes to envy. Take 5 minutes and write down 10 things for which you are grateful in your life. Now take another 5 minutes and pray a prayer of gratitude for these things in your life.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Dr. Thomas K. Tewell	Pastor-in-Residence
Rev. Susan A. Clayton	Associate Pastor, Congregational Care
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
Brett Burcham	Acoustic Guitar
Eric Onimus	Bass Guitar
Leif Bondarenko	Drums
Carlos Pino	Electric Guitar
Tommy Bowen	Horns
Jason Westbrook	Sound

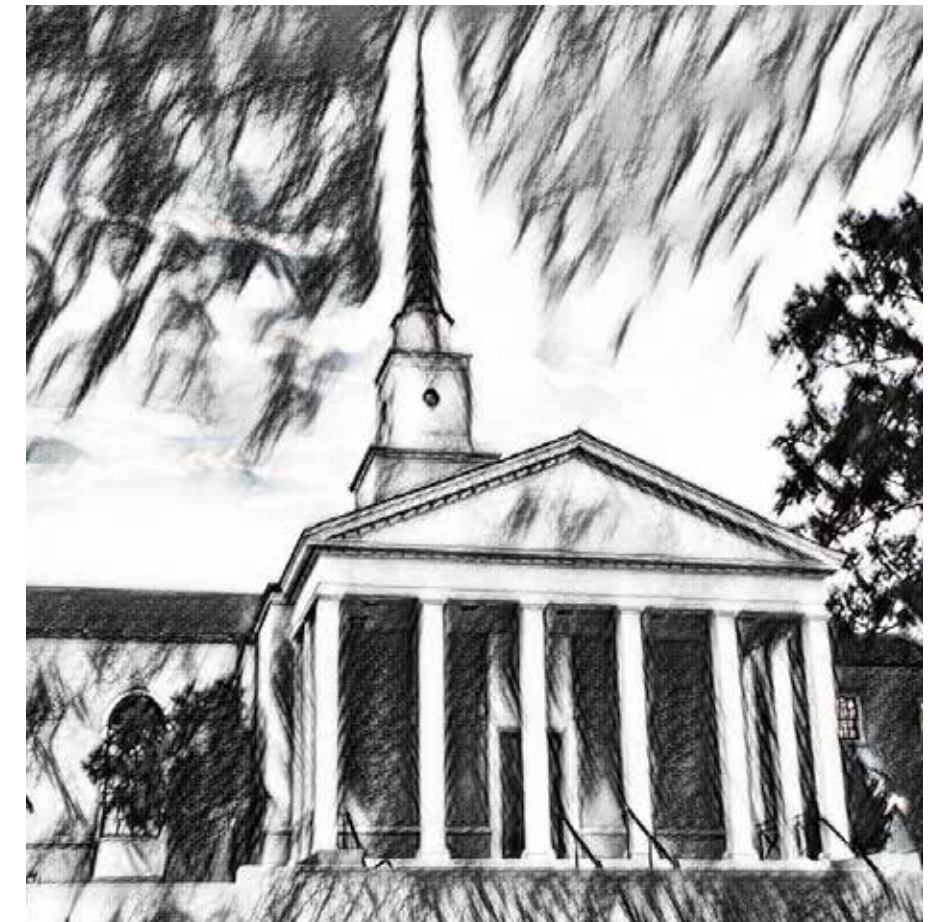


Independent Presbyterian Church

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 5, 2024

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN 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:

Keep my eyes up! May I look up and not down. May I always look up. And may my upward searching eyes draw my feet out of the mire and save my soul from fear, and sin, and despair. In Christ's name. Amen and Amen.

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

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers on the foyer table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark L. Miller.

GATHERING

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Unless the Lord builds the house,
People: Those who build it labor in vain.
Leader: Unless the Lord guards the city,
People: The guard keeps watch in vain.
Leader: It is in vain that you rise early and go late to rest,
People: Eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.
Gathering Songs

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, on this Communion Sunday, we confess to you our human tendency toward envy. We envy the lives of other people and the success that we perceive they have. Forgive us, Lord, for wanting what other people have and forgetting the gifts that you have given us. Help us to remember that our self-esteem comes from being created in your image. Help us to be content with what we have. By the power of your Spirit within us, help us to celebrate other people, while also being grateful for who you made us to be. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

A Moment with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 4:10-13

Sermon: When There Is a Marble Fireplace in Your Friend's Office...

RESPONDING

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

Hymn

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. To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers

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: "A Mighty Fortress"
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn

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.