

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 28, 2024

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, the Great Secret is so simple, that we have despised it and missed the way. We thought we needed intellect, or wealth or power, when we needed only love. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Nun Freut Euch" Matthias Weckmann
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.

INTROIT - "Alleluia. The Lord is ris'n indeed" George Thalben-Ball
Alleluia. The Lord is ris'n indeed. O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

CALL TO WORSHIP..... (8:45) Jay Turner, (11:00) Jessica Grover
Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
People: **Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**
Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;
People: **We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**
Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
People: **For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.** *Psalms 100*

* **HYMN 667 - "When Morning Gilds the Skies"** LAUDES DOMINI

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Unison: **Gracious and Loving God, we confess to you that we are people of good intentions. But so often our intentions do not translate into reality. We promise to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind. But too often our promises become empty in a sea of other commitments. We promise to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we harbor resentment and bitterness instead of love. Forgive us, O God. By the power of your Holy Spirit within us, mold us into new people whose daily lives will honor you. We pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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**

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: 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."

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Dr. Tewell

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)Rev. Clayton

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Proverbs 6:6-11 (Pew Bible, p. OT589)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

During the singing of this anthem, children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for worship care.

ANTHEM - "Sicut Cervus"Stephanie Martin

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, Ita desiderat anima mea ad te Dominum.

As the hart longs for the water springs, so longs my soul for thee, O God.

Psalms 42:1

SECOND LESSON - Revelation 3:14-20 (Pew Bible, p. NT247)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - JESUS AND THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS!

Dr. Tewell

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 39 - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness".....FAITHFULNESS

* APOSTLES' CREEDRev. 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

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

- * The Offertory Statement
- * The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....
OLD HUNDREDTH

* The Prayer of Dedication
The Offertory Anthem – "Cantique de Jean Racine"Gabriel Fauré
O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation, Eternal Light of the earth and the sky, On this Thy holy day, we kneel in adoration, O Saviour turn on us Thy loving eye! Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming, whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell, And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all-illum'ning, that they may waken Thy mercy to tell! O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee, who here are gathered on penitent knee, Accept the hymns we chant to Thine everlasting glory and these Thy gifts we return to Thee!
translation of sung French

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 707 - "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"HALL
- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE - "Fugue in C Major" Felix Mendelssohn
- **Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! Please join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor immediately following the service where we can tell you more about our church. We look forward to meeting you! For more information about our next New Member Class on Wednesday, May 22, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the church today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Varina Goodall Rushton and Yancey H. Goodall. **THE FLOWERS** in the Children's Chapel are given to the glory of God and in honor of the baptism of Cooley Tompkins Chandler. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Stanley Moodie, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Force, WWII; father of Patricia Moodie Garlikov.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Dr. Tewell continues his class series, "Rearranging God's Price Tags," in the Sanctuary at 10 am.

THE IPC FOOD PANTRY is running extremely low on food items such as canned vegetables and fruit, soup, proteins, and packaged meals. Hygiene product needs include toothpaste, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, dish soap, and laundry detergent. A full list of needs can be found on our Community Ministries website at ipc-usa.org/serve/ipccm or on the pink pew cards.

SPRING CLEANING DRIVE: In April, Community Ministries is collecting bicycles (any condition), men's gently worn/new tennis shoes or work boots, gently worn/new adult t-shirts, new men's socks, and new washcloths. For questions, contact Nicholas Mathes at nmathes@ipc-usa.org.

DAY TRIP: A group of IPC members, including the Social Justice Book Club, are departing IPC at 8 am on Friday, May 3, to visit The Equal Justice Initiative's Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery, returning by 4 pm. To join, contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at mpatrick@ipc-usa.org or (205) 933-3709 by Tuesday, April 30.

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH on Tuesday, April 30, at The Fish Market (612 22nd Street S, 35233). We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 am. This is a self-pay event, but please register at ipc-usa.org/connect so that we have an accurate headcount. For questions, contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

POPSICLES ON THE PLAYGROUND: Guardians with children age 2 and under (and siblings) are invited to join us on the IPC Children's Playground on Saturday, May 4, at 9:30 am - 11:00 am. Friends and visitors are welcome. For questions, contact Beth Middleton at bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org.

PASTOR'S NOTES
“Planting an Acorn of Faith”

Read John 15:1-17 and savor each verse as if it were a favorite food or a delicious dessert.

Reflection Questions and Habits of the Heart

1. In today’s sermon, Tom Tewell mentioned U.S. Airway’s pilot, Captain Sully Sullenberger, who landed his plane on the Hudson River with all 155 passengers safe. Sullenberger said, “For over 35 years I have been making regular daily deposits in the bank of training, education, and experience so that on January 15, 2009, I could make a rather large withdrawal.” Question: As you reflect on Sullenberger’s words, ask yourself, “What am I making a regular daily deposit in? And what would I like to make a daily deposit in?”
2. Author Gordon McDonald said, “If my life is in order, it will be because I have made a daily determination to see time as God’s gift and worthy of careful investment.” What do you think of McDonald’s statement? What habits of mind and heart would you like to put into practice this coming week?
3. Take 10 minutes to write a text, an email, or a handwritten note of thanks to someone who has planted an acorn of faith in your life. Tell them as specifically as possible how they have helped you grow in your faith and your life because of their investment in you. Think of a person. Act now!
4. Take 5 minutes in prayer and ask God to help you start a new habit or dust off an old habit that you discarded that will benefit your life, your health, or your faith this coming week.

BAPTISM TODAY

COOLEY TOMPKINS CHANDLER, born December 14, 2023, daughter of Mrs. Ashley-Rose Chandler and Mr. Robert Lane Chandler ("Lane"); sister of Otto Haynes Chandler; granddaughter of Cindy and George Robert Chandler, Tammie and Jim Cooley.

Participants in Today's Services

Dr. Thomas K. Tewell, Pastor-in-Residence
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed
Jay Turner and Jessica Grover, Elders
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir
Acolytes: (8:45) Andrew Lindstrom Murphree
(11:00) Winslow Sutton Gregg, Andrew William Grover

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor
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This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.ipc-usa.org