

Independent Presbyterian Church  
Birmingham, Alabama



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 2025

8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Give us peace, O God of peace. Give us mutual consideration as the basis of peace. May we understand one another, may we be friends. Allay suspicion and fear. Teach us that we grow strong by strengthening every other. Amen.  
*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE ..... César Franck  
"Cantabile"

*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 ..... George Thalben-Ball  
"Draw nigh to God"  
Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Rev. Clayton  
Minister: Peace be with you.  
People: **How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.**  
Minister: Receive the Holy Spirit.  
People: **It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.**

*Psalm 133:1–3; John 20:21–22*

\* HYMN 257 ..... WOODLANDS  
"The Risen Christ"

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: **God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts,  
when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world,  
forgive us and help us to find our voice.  
When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,  
forgive us and give us the power to forgive.  
When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority,  
join with the weak to make us all strong.  
When we are confined by our hurts,  
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.  
When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,  
pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us  
peace. 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

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

\* THE PEACE

Minister: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Minister: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Seamon

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.) .....Rev. Clayton  
James Davidson Grisham, Jr.

\* APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 a.m.)

**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.**

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON - John 20:19-31 (Pew Bible, p. NT88)

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 childcare.*

ANTHEM ..... Philip Wilby

**"If Ye Love Me"**

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may 'bide with you forever; E'en the spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you. *John 14:15-18*

SERMON ..... Rev. Seamon

**"Scared and Scarred"**

## The Response to the Word

\* HYMN 254 ..... PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

\* APOSTLES’ CREED (8:45 a.m.) ..... Rev. Newton

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

\* The Offertory Statement

\* The Doxology (HYMN 606) ..... OLD HUNDREDTH  
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem ..... Virgil Thomson  
“My Shepherd will Supply My Need”

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name; In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wand’ring spirit back when I forsake His ways, and leads me, for His mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace. When I walk thru the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay; one word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread; My cup with blessings overflows; Thine oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may Thy house be mine abode, and all my work be praise! There would I find a settled rest while others go and come, no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.  
*Isaac Watts*

### 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 393 ..... ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN  
“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

\* BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Seamon

\* POSTLUDE ..... Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
“Prelude to the *Te Deum*”

\* 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, please contact Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org).

**THE FLOWERS** in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Louis J. LeVaughn, Charles Scott Diebel, James E. Grisham, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Leighton C. Parnell, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. John P. Bryant, and Hunter Parker White. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in honor of Raymond F. Spigarelli, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army 1960-1982, two tours in Vietnam 1966 and 1970, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; father of Barbara Day and grandfather of Adrienne Day.

**HERO + PORCH FUNDRAISING EVENT:** On Wednesday, May 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Porch Restaurant (2 Dexter Avenue, Crestline) will host a fundraising event to benefit the IPC Day School HERO Scholarship Fund. Ten percent of all sales will be donated to help more families access the joy of IPC Day School. Enjoy a meal with family and friends while supporting future students. Every bite counts!

**IPC CHOIR SPRING CONCERT:** Save the date for an afternoon soirée of music on Sunday, May 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Enjoy works by 19th-Century German composers Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms, starting with the well-known *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* from Brahms's Requiem. The concert will include Lieder by Schumann, as well as a Romance for oboe, accompanied by pianist Amy McLelland. The event concludes with Schumann's rarely heard *Requiem*. The IPC Choir and soloists Beth Middleton, Jane Stump, Nick Mathes, and Chris O'Rear will be accompanied by an 18-piece orchestra. This free concert promises to be a lovely afternoon of beautiful music!

**PROVIDE AND SERVE DINNER AT FIRST LIGHT:** Volunteer with your family or a group to provide evening meals for the women and children staying at First Light. IPC will be providing evening meals each night for the week of May 18-24. Sign up at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**IPC FOUNDATION LUNCH & LEARN:** Register to join us on Monday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall Dining Room 1 for an informative Lunch & Learn with Maryville College and Church of the Risen Christ. We welcome Dr. Bryan Coker, President, and Rev. Jessica Lewis, Chaplain, to share their current work and ministry with Maryville College students. We also welcome Pastor Fred from Ukraine to update us on the Church of the Risen Christ. To ensure we have an accurate headcount for food, please register (\$10) at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page by Friday, May 16.

**BEER AND HYMNS:** Join us on Monday, May 19, at our NEW! location, **The Grocery at 2823 Central Ave., in Homewood!** The Beer & Hymns music starts at 7:00 p.m. and is exactly what it sounds like. We sing old-timey hymns (plus a few new ones) while enjoying good food and beverages.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

**JOIN IPC CONNECT** for a magical Sunday Matinee on June 1 at 2:00 p.m. to enjoy Disney's *Frozen* at the Red Mountain Theatre! All are invited, but act fast. There are only 50 tickets available (\$50), and this performance is sold out to the general public. Reserve your tickets soon at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE AT IPC:** From June 1 to August 24, we move to a combined traditional worship service in the Sanctuary each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and the Table worship service will continue in Highland Hall at 5:00 p.m. Sunday school will be held at 9:00 a.m. with a combined class for adults and youth. Childcare will be available for infants through rising 6th graders on the ground floor. **Please note we observe our Holiday Worship Schedule**, which means there will be no Sunday School or Table Worship on the following Sundays: May 25 (Memorial Day), July 6 (Independence Day), and August 31 (Labor Day).

### TODAY'S BAPTISM

**JAMES DAVIDSON GRISHAM, JR.**, born January 28, 2025, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Davidson Grisham, Sr.; grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Ernest Grisham III, Dr. Elizabeth White Diebel, and Dr. and Mrs. David Jackson Bryant; great-grandson of Mrs. Louis J. LeVaughn.

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#### Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed  
The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor, Discipleship  
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach  
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts  
Acolytes: (8:45 a.m.) Caleb Siegel and Nathaniel Siegel  
(11:00 a.m.) Laura Donovan, Anne Pringle, Bob Pringle  
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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Independent Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

**[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)**