



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 77, No. 18

May 5, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

8:45 am & 11:00 am

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE - "Prelude and Fugue in A Major"J.S. Bach
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) Margaret King, (11:00) Georgia Miller

Minister: Unless the Lord builds the house,

People: Those who build it labor in vain.

Minister: Unless the Lord guards the city,

People: The guard keeps watch in vain.

Minister: It is in vain that you rise early and go late to rest,

All: Eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Psalms 127

*HYMN 1 - "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" NICAIA

***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.**

A period of silence for personal confession.

*** KYRIE ELEISON (from *The Independent Service* by Jeff McLelland)**

Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,
Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for "Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us," with a final whole note on "us,". The second staff continues the melody for "Lord have mercy upon us," with a final half note on "us,".

***DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Minister: Friends, believe 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."

*** GLORIA PATRI (from *The Independent Service*)**

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi-rit:
As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and will be for
ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for "Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi-rit:", with a triplet of eighth notes on "Ho - ly". The second staff continues the melody for "As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and will be for", with a triplet of eighth notes on "be - gin - ing". The third staff continues the melody for "ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.", with a triplet of eighth notes on "ev - er".

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Dr. Tewell

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - I Samuel 18:6-9 (Pew Bible, p. NT262)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

*HYMN 630 - "Fairest Lord Jesus".....CRUSADERS' HYMN

SECOND LESSON - Philippians 4:10-13 (Pew Bible, p. NT199)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "WHEN THERE IS A MARBLE FIREPLACE IN YOUR

FRIEND'S OFFICE..."Dr. Tewell

The Response to the Word

*NICENE CREED

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. 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 – "Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love"

Ned Rorem

Sing, my soul, His wondrous love, Who, from yon bright throne above, Ever watchful o'er our race, Still to man extends His grace. Heav'n and earth by Him were made, All is by His scepter sway'd; What are we that He should show So much love to us below? God, the merciful and good, Bought us with the Saviour's blood, And, to make our safety sure, Guides us by His spirit pure. Sing, my soul, adore His name; Let His glory be thy theme: Praise Him till He calls thee home, Trust His love for all to come.

Hymn 22 (III, 1) of the Protestant Episcopal Church, USA (1841)

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE.....Rev. Seamon

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

SANCTUS (from *The Independent Service*)

introduction

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
10 po-wer and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na
18 in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the
25 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The minister continues in prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (from *The Independent Service*)

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain!

The minister continues in prayer.

AMEN (from *The Independent Service*)

A - men, A - men, A - - - men!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Ave Verum Corpus" Stephanie Martin
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, Vere passum immolatum in cruce pro homine; Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine, Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu, Fili Mariae, Miserere nobis, Amen.
Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, who having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind; whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood. Be for us a foretaste in the trial of death. O sweet Jesus, O pious Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on us. Amen. *14th-century chant attributed to Pope Innocent VI*

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" William P. Rowan
Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress; come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest. Do not fear, my yoke is easy; do not fear, my burden's light; do not fear the path before you; do not run from me in fright. Take my yoke and leave your troubles; take my yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am beside you; take and learn humility. Rest in me, O weary traveler; rest in me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is gentle; rest and cast away your care.
Sylvia G. Dunstan

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

*HYMN 223 - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" HAMBURG

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - "Wir danken dir, Gott" J.S. Bach

**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.

THE FLOWERS in the Children's Chapel are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Michael Robertson McDaniel. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harvey Beers Leaver, Lieutenant, U.S. Army, WWII; U.S. First Infantry, Occupational Forces, Okinawa, Japan; father of Paul Harvey Leaver.

MUSIC NOTE: Sung for the first time today, "Ave Verum Corpus" is one of four motets by Stephanie Martin. This set has been dedicated as a gift to the music library to the glory of God and in honor of Linda Nelson.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Dr. Tewell continues his class series, "Rearranging God's Price Tags," in the Sanctuary at 10 am. Find video replays of past classes on the Adult Sunday School page at 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 all necessary 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.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM: In memory of Ann Monk.

IPC SOCIAL SERVICES: In memory of both Ann Monk and Susie Sikes.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds; Mrs. Elizabeth "Gayle" Griffin; Mr. Homer E. McGough, Sr.; Mr. Francis J. Palme, Jr.; and Mrs. Ann C. Tate.

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 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 Services

Dr. Thomas K. Tewell, Pastor-in-Residence

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Families & Outreach

Margaret King, Georgia Miller, Elders

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45) Jessica Francis Long, Margaret McClain Robinson,
John Samuel Meriwether IV

(11:00) William Oliver Middleton, Stephen Christopher Tribble

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