

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025

8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, I may not be brilliant but I can be faithful. I may not be strong but I can be true. Abide with me lest I falter and fail. Hold me to my course till the end. Amen. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE Ralph Vaughan Williams
"Five Studies in English Folksong"

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Clayton

Minister: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

People: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Minister: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

People: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence.

Minister: Let us worship the Living God! *Psalm 89*

*SILENT PROCESSION

*HYMN 39 FAITHFULNESS
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Gracious and Merciful God, your commitment to us in Jesus Christ is unshakeable. We confess, however, that we are often unfaithful to you. We claim that Jesus is your Son, but we often treat his commands as mere suggestions. When following Christ becomes hard, we deny him through our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us for all the ways we deny the one who died that we might truly live. In his name we pray. 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. Long

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Spring Valley School.....
Laura Fiveash, DrPH, RD, Executive Director

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION.....Rev. Clayton

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Mark 14:53-72 (Pew Bible, p. NT40)

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.....Antonín Dvořák

"Kyrie" from Messe in D-Dur"

Kyrie eleison. Christe, eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

SERMON..... Rev. Long

"The Trial"

The Response to the Word

ORGAN MEDITATION

Stand with the choir for Hymn 218

*HYMN 218..... HERZLIEBSTER JESU

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

*APOSTLES' CREED.....Rev. Newton

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 (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..... Percy W. Whitlock
 “Be Still, My Soul”

Be still, my soul, for God is near; The Great High Priest is with thee now; The Lord of Life Himself is here, before whose face the angels bow. To make thy heart His lowly throne, thy Savior God in love draws nigh. He gives Himself unto His own, for whom He once came down to die. I come, O Lord, for Thou dost call to blend my pleading prayer with Thine: to Thee I give my self, my all and feed on Thee, and make Thee mine. Amen. *W. D. MacLagan*

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 475NETTLETON
 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

- *BENEDICTION..... Rev. Long

- *POSTLUDE J. S. Bach
 “We Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ”

- *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 chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia Talbot Markle. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kenneth Bryan Horton, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, fighter pilot in both WW11 and The Korean conflict; received numerous medals including two Navy Crosses and the Distinguished Flying Cross; father of Susan Horton Eiland and Kenneth Roy Horton; grandfather of Susanna Horton Eiland and Morgan Bryan Eiland.

IN KEEPING WITH TRADITIONAL LITURGICAL PRACTICES, the Sunday worship services during Lent will change slightly to observe this most penitential season. The choir will process silently, the Gloria Patri will be omitted, and the postlude will take on a more reflective nature. Another way the nature of Lent is observed is by the use of the plain brass cross on the Communion Table. These few changes are meant to help make your observance of Lent more meaningful so that the glorious nature of Easter will be even more bountiful in your life.

JOIN US FOR COOKIES IN THE COURTYARD this morning and each Sunday during Lent following the 11 am worship service.

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH CREW on Tuesday, March 25 for a great meal and fellowship at Olexa's in Mountain Brook Village. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30. This is a self-pay event but please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page so we will have an accurate head count.

LENTEN CHAPEL & LUNCH: Join us each Wednesday (March 12-April 16) for a noonday worship service followed by a light lunch. **Reserve your lunch for this week by noon on March 25.** Find the reservation form and discover more about Lent at IPC at ipc-usa.org.

JOIN US FOR "NATURE NURTURE: Our Way to a Homegrown Habitat" running Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm in Room 302 through April 2. Discover what is growing in the Highland Avenue medians and how you, too, can nurture plots of beautiful flora and fauna native to Alabama, led by Certified Master Gardener Gail Pless.

HONOR THE MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES with an Easter Memorial donation. To ensure the names of your loved ones are included in the Easter bulletin, please submit your contribution by Sunday, April 6. You can pick up a contribution envelope today from the pew racks or at the receptionist's desk. Find our online donation form on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

WESTERN CAROLINA MISSION TRIP: Make plans to serve with us from June 8-14, where we'll assist with light construction and rebuilding homes affected by Hurricane Helene. We'll be staying in a couple of homes on Cataloochee Mountain and working in the Canton area. The trip costs \$200, which covers travel and expenses, and includes opportunities for fellowship, hikes, and worship. Open to participants aged 14 and up. Please complete the interest form on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org by April 10 or contact Rev. David Seamon at dseamon@ipc-usa.org for more information.

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY SOCK HOP on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Highland Hall. IPC Children's Ministries will host a fun-filled evening with a hot dog and hamburger dinner, an ice cream station, a photo booth, music by a DJ, and games. Costumes are encouraged!

THE REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is identifying qualified nominees for the Elder and Deacon classes of 2028, trustees to serve on the IPC Foundation, two congregants to serve as members at large on the RNC, and the vice president of the congregation (who will become president in 2027). Paper forms are available in the narthex; deposit in the marked box by the receptionist's desk. The online form is available at ipc-usa.org or email RNC@ipc-usa.org. The deadline to nominate is April 21.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: In memory of Bill Swoger.

CFAF: In memory of Betty Jo Cowin.

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds, Mrs. Jacqueline S. "Jackie" Fleming, Mrs. Myrl Kirstein, Dr. John M. Lyons, Mrs. Jonnie F. Pewitt, Mr. James D. "Don" Thornburgh, Sr., and Mr. Richard M. "Dick" Womack. (Life Care Fund) In memory of Dr. John M. Lyons.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed

The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor, Discipleship

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

Acolytes: (11:00 a.m.) Spencer Cobbs

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Kathleen Costello, clarinet

Independent Presbyterian Church

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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