

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, give us faith that whatever ought to be will be. May we be confident that we can do whatever Thy will is that we shall do. May we find out Thy way, may we join ourselves to it, then leave all the rest with Thee. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE Camille Saint-Saëns
"Prière"

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. Newton

Minister: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Minister: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Minister: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

People: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

Psalms 130

*SILENT PROCESSION

*HYMN 41 LYONS
"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Gracious and Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have brought light into the darkness to awaken us to new life. But we confess that we prefer to remain asleep in the darkness where we have grown comfortable. Though we desire to be faithful to you, we confess that we are weak and faithless. Forgive us, O God, for abandoning you when discipleship becomes hard. Forgive us for being afraid. Forgive us for all the ways we betray our Lord Jesus. 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)

Margaret Olean Poor

Cooper Davidson Smith

*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..... Rev. Newton

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Mark 14:26-50 (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..... Louis Vierne

"Kyrie" from Messe Solenelle"

Kyrie eleison. Christe, eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

SERMON Rev. Long

"The Betrayal"

The Response to the Word

*HYMN 220 RED HEAD 76
“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

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

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 Eric Nelson
“And I Saw a New Heaven”

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. *Revelation 21:1-4*

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 275 EIN’ FESTE BURG
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*BENEDICTION Rev. Long

*POSTLUDE William Boyce
“Voluntary in A Minor”

*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 Mrs. Ginna Lowry. **THE ROSES** in the Children's Chapel are given to the glory of God and in honor of the births of Hudson Perry Wheeler, son of Sallie and Ryan Wheeler, brother of Sophie Wheeler, born on February 5, 2025; and Crawford William Covington, son of Chappell and Sloan Covington, brother of Dottie Covington, and grandson of Merrill Stewart, born on February 12, 2025. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ralls McKinnley Coston, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, WWII; grandfather of Jim Walker.

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.

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 11. Find the reservation form and discover more about Lent at IPC at ipc-usa.org.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT GARDENING CLASS starts March 12. Join us for "Nature Nurture: Our Way to a Homegrown Habitat" running consecutive 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.

LAST CALL: Join Rev. David Seamon and Dr. Jeff Leonard as Biblical Explorations and IPC journey to Rome and Assisi May 31 - June 8. A few spots are still available, so don't miss your chance! March 15 is our deadline. The itinerary includes historical sites, stunning churches, and breathtaking art. Find the interest form at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

THE CHIAPAS MISSION TEAM is collecting supplies for their trip from March 22-29, where they will construct a church and run programs for local children. Please consider donating new supplies from the list below or visit our Amazon wish list at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page. Bring supplies to the Community Ministries office on the ground floor off 31st Street. **Supplies needed by March 20:** Paint brushes (16), paint rollers (16), paint roller frames (8), work gloves (12), queen sheets (5 sets), king sheets (2 sets), children's puzzles (12), 8-pack Crayola crayons (120), coloring books (20), basketballs (6), soccer balls (3), and hand-held, portable ball pumps (3).

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

YOUTH SUNDAY ON MARCH 16: Our Youth (7-12th grade) have been preparing since January to lead the congregation in all elements of worship including preaching, music, liturgy, and more during all services. We will also recognize high school seniors in the 11 am traditional service.

COME SEE THE CHILDREN'S SPRING MUSICAL, "It's Cool in the Furnace" next Sunday, March 16, at 10 am in the Highland Hall Assembly Room. Join us for the timeless story of a Godly guy named Daniel, his three side-kicks, and a fiery furnace. It's about as cool as it gets!

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for The Patricia Byrne Memorial Concert Series on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m., which will present the internationally acclaimed organist Ken Cowan and 42 members of the Alabama Symphony performing organ concertos Rheinberger and Jongen, and the hauntingly beautiful *Adagio* by Tomaso Albinoni.

BAPTISMS TODAY

MARGARET OLEAN POOR, born September 6, 2024, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Thomas Poor, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Poor and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Bell.

COOPER DAVIDSON SMITH, born June 20, 2024, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Chandler Smith, brother of Anna Creighton Smith, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Smith and Dr. Allen Cooper and Mrs. Jane Cooper.

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

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

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

Acolytes: (8:45 a.m.) Sydney Clark, Heidi Hollingsworth, and James Inscoc

(11:00 a.m.) Mabel Fleenor, Andrew Grover, and Walter Grover

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Mary Del Gobbo, cello

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