

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 78, No. 18 May 4, 2025

Service for the Lord's Day

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday in Easter

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Father, we beseech Thee for our families that they may become one. Save us from divided houses. Unite us in common faith, a common allegiance. Heal the breach in every home that no enemy shall enter. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

The service o			
brilliance ma	y you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, His peace.		
INTROIT	George Thalben-Ball		
	"Blessed be his glorious name for ever"		
Blessed be his	glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory,		
	Amen.		
CALL TO W	ORSHIPRev. Seamon		
Minister:			
	Sing the good news of God:		
People:	who awakens us with dawn's embrace,		
	who surrounds us with joy and life.		
Minister:	Now is the time to offer praise to God,		
	in every place, with every voice:		
People:	to rejoice in the One who leads us through each moment		
	with a gentle hand and a word of hope.		
Minister:	Now is the time to join all creation in praising God,		
	from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies.		
People:	We will sing the good news of Easter!		
	We will rejoice in the God who loves us.		
*HYMN 248	HYMN TO JOY		

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

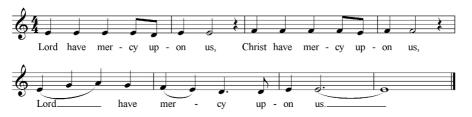
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison:

Now that Easter Sunday is over, God, we tune out the music of creation, choosing temptation's familiar refrains instead. We forego new roads of joy and wonder, choosing the well-worn path of our fears instead. Forgive us, Lord. Call us out of the boats of our boredom, guilt, and shame, and into the living waters of your love. Help us to learn new ways of being your people so that we might pull in all the grace, wonder, and mercy offered to us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

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



* DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* THE PEACE

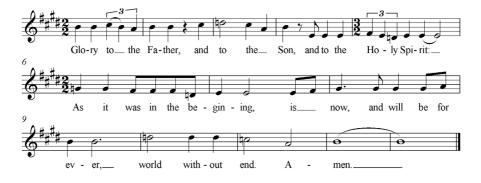
Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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 (from The Independent Service)



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Newton

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Seamon

SCRIPTURE LESSON - John 21:1-19 (Pew Bible, p.NT88)

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

the acolyte dow	ng of this HYMN, children kindergarten age and younger may follow n the center aisle to the Ground Floor for chilld care.
111 WIIN 432	"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"
SERMON	
	"Hard Conversations"
	The Response to the Word
* NICENE CRE	EDRev. Seamon
Christ, the call worlds; Content and things were heaven; And was made mosuffered, and to the Script hand of the the quick and in the Holy Content and the Ho	f all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus nly-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before od of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begote; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all nade; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and an; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He was buried; And the third day He rose again according ures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right Tather. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe thost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped a one Holy Ca for the remi	nd glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in cholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism sion of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; of the world to come. Amen.
worshiped a one Holy Ca for the remi And the Life PRESENTATIO To give onli * The Offert * The Doxolo Praise Goo	and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in cholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism sion of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; of the world to come. Amen. NOF TITHES AND OFFERINGS e, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps. rry Statement gy (HYMN 606)
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GREAT THANKSGIVING

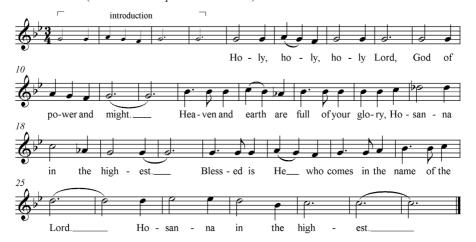
Minister: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

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)



The minister continues in prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (from The Independent Service)



The minister continues in prayer.

AMEN (from The Independent Service)



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

The Sending

*HYMN 755		WEISSE FLAGGEN
	"Alleluia! Laud and Blessing"	
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Newton
*POSTLUDE		Anon
	"Duke Street"	

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** 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.
- **EXTENDED ATRIUM:** Children in first through sixth grade will have extra exploration time in the Atrium this morning before joining their parents for communion during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Catechists will bring the children into the service at the Doxology and help to quietly find families during the offertory anthem. Parents, please sit on the pulpit/parlor side of the Sanctuary along the outside aisle, if possible.
- 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 and Clara 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 Robert Schumann, as well as a Romance for oboe. The event concludes with Schumann's rarely heard *Requiem*. 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 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 to updates us on the Church of the Risen Christ. To ensure we have an accurate headcount for food, please register (\$10) at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page by Friday, May 16.

^{*}CONGREGATION STANDING

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).

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 (\$60), and this performance is sold out to the general public. Reserve your tickets soon at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

TWO-YEAR-OLD BIBLE PRESENTATION

Our 2's Class will receive their *Growing in God's Love Bibles* this Sunday. Families are invited to join us for a short presentation and information session on the Large Playground during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday School hour to recognize the children who are graduating from Toddler Atrium.

Palmer Alspaugh Emmy Goudreau
Iris Alspaugh Scott Hamre
Hayes Alverson Evie Thomas
Otto Chandler Hudson Varner
Vivian Couch Bella Williams

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (Horizon Fund) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds and Mrs. Sara T. Ricks.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor
The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Acolytes: (8:45 a.m.) Jessica Long
(11:00 a.m.) Laden Falls, Joe Jones, Katelyn Long
The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Independent Presbyterian Church The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor 3100 Highland Avenue Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

Phone: (205)933-1830; Fax: (205)933-1836

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)