



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*

PRELUDE ..... Healey Willan

*"Prelude on Crimond"*

*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

*"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 WORSHIP ..... Rev. Seamon

Minister: Now is the time to sing!  
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)

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

The musical notation is in 4/4 time. The first line contains two measures of music with lyrics 'Lord have mer - cy up - on us,'. The second line contains two measures of music with lyrics 'Christ have mer - cy up - on us,'. The third line contains two measures of music with lyrics 'Lord have mer - cy up - on us.'.

\* 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*)

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 musical notation is in 3/4 time. The first line contains two measures of music with lyrics 'Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi-rit:'. The second line contains two measures of music with lyrics 'As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and will be for'. The third line contains two measures of music with lyrics 'ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.'.

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.

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

\* HYMN 432 ..... REPTON  
“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

SERMON ..... Rev. Newton  
“Hard Conversations”

### The Response to the Word

\* NICENE CREED ..... Rev. Seamon

**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 (*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..... Anonymous 16th Century  
“Rejoice in the Lord alway”

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e’en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen. *Philippians 4:4-7*

### The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE..... Rev. Clayton

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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the Sanctus. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The score begins with an 'introduction' marked with a fermata. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 10, 18, and 25 indicating specific points in the music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with some notes beamed together. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The minister continues in prayer.  
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (from *The Independent Service*)

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

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the Memorial Acclamation. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The minister continues in prayer.  
AMEN (from *The Independent Service*)

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

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the Amen. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”.....William Bradley Roberts  
Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care: in thy pleasant pas-  
tures feed us: for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast  
bought us, thine we are. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will: do  
thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus! Blessed  
Jesus! Thou hast loved us: love us still. *Dorothy Ann Thrupp*

“John 3:16”.....B. E. Boykin  
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever  
believeth in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## The Sending

\*HYMN 755 ..... WEISSE FLAGGEN  
“Alleluia! Laud and Blessing”

\*BENEDICTION.....Rev. Newton

\*POSTLUDE .....Anon  
“Duke Street”

\*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** 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](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 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.

**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](http://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  
Iris Alspaugh  
Hayes Alverson  
Otto Chandler  
Vivian Couch

Emmy Goudreau  
Scott Hamre  
Evie Thomas  
Hudson Varner  
Bella Williams

## SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

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

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### 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

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