

Independent Presbyterian Church  
Birmingham, Alabama



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 25, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, we are tired of the old sickness—give us the new health. We are tired of the old failure—give us the new success. We are tired of the old sin—give us the new holiness. Make us new creatures in Christ Jesus blessed by a new earth, beckoned by a new heaven. Amen.  
*from “Beginning the Day” by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE ..... J. S. Bach  
“Adagio e dolce” from *Sonata III*

*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  
“Herein is love”  
Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us. Herein is love.

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Rev. Newton

Minister: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
**People: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**  
Minister: He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.  
**People: Even youths will faint and grow weary, and the young will fall exhausted.**  
Minister: But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.  
**People: They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.** *Isaiah 40:28-31*

\* HYMN 307 ..... CWM RHONDDA  
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison: O God, by your mercy, strengthen those who are exposed to the rough storms of trouble and temptation. Help us stand against our own negligence and cowardice. Defend us against the treachery of our unfaithful hearts, and forgive us our sins. Help us, we implore you. Bring us safe to your haven of peace. Amen.** *St. Augustine*  
*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."*

\* GLORIA PATRI (HYMN 581) ..... GREATOR EX

"Glory Be to the Father"

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Long

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Genesis 3:22-24 (Pew Bible, p. OT3);  
Matthew 7:13-14 (Pew Bible, p. NT5)

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 ..... Edward C. Bairstow

"Sing Ye to the Lord"

Sing ye to the Lord, for He hath triumph'd gloriously. Pharoah's chariots and his host hath He cast into the sea. Mighty victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath Thee lie; Thou hast conquer'd in the fight, Thou hast brought us life and light. Now no more can death appal, now no more the grave enthral, Thou hast open'd Paradise, and in Thee, Thy Saints shall rise. Alleluia, Amen.

*Exodus 15, adapt. Robert Campbell*

SERMON ..... Rev. Long

"The Road Less Traveled"

The Response to the Word

\* HYMN 749 ..... WE ARE CALLED

"Come! Live in the Light!"

\* APOSTLES' CREED ..... Rev. Clayton

**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..... William Bradley Roberts  
“When the Morning Stars Together”

When the morning stars together their creator’s glory sang, and the angel host all shouted till with joy the heavens rang, then your wisdom and your greatness their exultant music told, all the beauty and the splendor which your mighty works unfold. When in synagogue and temple voices raised the psalmists’ songs, offering the adoration which alone to you belongs, when the singers and the cymbals with the trumpet made accord, glory filled the house of worship, and all knew your presence, Lord. Voice and instrument, in union through the ages spoke thy praise. Plainsong, tuneful hymns, and anthems told your faithful, gracious ways. Choir and orchestra and organ each a sacred off’ring brought, while inspired by your own Spirit, poet and composer wrought. Lord, we bring our gift of music; touch our lips and fire our hearts, teach our minds and train our senses, fit us for this sacred art. Then with skill and consecration we would serve you, Lord, and give all our pow’rs to glorify you, and in serving fully live.

Albert F. Bayly

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 353 ..... SOLID ROCK  
“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

- \* BENEDICTION..... Rev. Long

- \* POSTLUDE .....J. S. Bach  
“Wir danken dir, Gott”

- \* 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** in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. John Roberts Faucette. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Stanley Moodie, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Force, WWII; father of Patricia Moodie Garlikov.

**JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH CREW** on Tuesday, May 27, for a great meal and fellowship at Irondale Cafe. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m.. This is a self-pay event but please register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page so we will have an accurate head count.

**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. Limited tickets are available (\$50) through IPC, 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.

**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. for adults and youth on the third floor. Childcare will be available for infants through rising 6th graders on the ground floor.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** Starting June 1, IPC's Summer Sunday School Class will explore Questions of Faith. Led by our associate pastors, the class is for adults and youth and will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the third floor in rooms 305/306. **If you would like to suggest a question to be covered in the class, submit it at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.**

**UPDATED SUMMER HOURS FOR FRONT DESK ON FRIDAYS:** Please note that the front desk will now close early on Fridays. New Friday hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The front desk will continue to be staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and church offices remain open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each weekday, except for holidays. If you need to leave a message for IPC outside of front desk hours, please call (205) 933-1830.

**PLEASE KEEP OUR IPC TRAVELERS IN YOUR PRAYERS** as they journey to Rome, The Eternal City, from May 30–June 8. Led by Dr. Jeff Leonard of Samford University and hosted by Rev. David Seamon, the group will explore the rich political, religious, and cultural history of Rome and Assisi. We pray for safe travels, meaningful learning, and spiritual renewal for all.

## **SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED**

**CFAF:** In memory of Veronica and James Halbleib, Diane Ager, Margaretta Shaw, and Betty Drennen, and in honor of Lynne Simmons.

**COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:** In memory of Diane Ager and Rita Spencer.

**GLOBAL MISSIONS:** In memory of Greg Jeane and in honor of Rev. Susan Clayton.

**IPC FOOD PANTRY:** In memory of James Edward Reeves, Terry Walker Bowen, Don Litrell, Margaretta Shaw, and Rita Spencer.

**MUSIC & FINE ARTS:** In memory of Matthew Ferriter.

**KIRKWOOD FUNDS:** (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Barbara S. Cook and Mr. William F. Edmonds.

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### **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

Acolyte: Jessica Long

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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