

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be Thou, O God, the presiding presence in my life. Keep the throne. Lead me. Surround me. Uphold me. Dwell in me. Possess me. Without Thee, I miss my way, I wander, I faint, I forget the meaning of myself and of life.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE Craig Phillips
"Serenade"

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: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

People: To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Minister: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

People: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Minister: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

People: Let us worship the living God! *Psalm 33:18-22*

*SILENT PROCESSION

*HYMN 1 NICAEA
"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Gracious and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in mind, body and spirit. Too often we have chosen to do what is convenient instead of what is right. Rather than trying to please you, we have tried to please ourselves or other people. Forgive us, O God, for choosing the ways of the world rather than the ways of Christ. Create in us clean hearts once again, and renew a right spirit within us. In Jesus' 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

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION.....Rev. Newton

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Mark 15:1-15 (Pew Bible, p. NT41)

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.....Maurice Duruflé

“Kyrie” from *Requiem*
Kyrie eleison. Christe, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

SERMON Rev. Long

“The Choice”

The Response to the Word

ORGAN MEDITATION

Stand with the choir for Hymn 209

*HYMN 209 LOVE UNKNOWN

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

BAPTISM & RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 a.m.)

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”.....SCHUMANN

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Elizabeth and Pat Adams
Missy and Charlton Bargeron
Parker Cobbs
Avery Cope
Elinor Grantham
Frances Lehman
William Loveless

Hannah McRight
Kendyl Partridge
Grace Redden
Maggie Mills Rose
Pruett Singleton
Cecilia Yang

*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.....Frank W. Boles
 “As Panting Deer Desire the Waterbrooks”
 As panting deer desire the waterbrooks when wandering in a dry and desert place, so yearns my thirsty soul for you, O God, and longs at last to see you face to face. Both day and night my tears have been my food, while scoffers taunt me, “Where is your God now?” My soul dissolves as I recall the throng whose pilgrim hymns I led to Zion’s brow. Why are you heavy-hearted, O my soul? And why are you so mired in deep discord? Still put your hope and trust in God alone, whom I will praise, my Savior and my Lord. *Carl P. Daw, Jr.*

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 440ABERYSTWYTH
 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”
- *BENEDICTION..... Rev. Long
- *POSTLUDE Johann Pachelbel
 “Chromatic Fugue”
- *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 Mr. and Mrs. Merrill H. Stewart, Sr. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Henderson Lanier, Lieutenant, U.S. Army, WWII; father of Barney Lanier and Martha Grizzle.

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 April 1.** Find the reservation form and discover more about Lent at IPC at ipc-usa.org.

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.

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. The trip is 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.

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!

CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT: Join us for an Egg Hunt in Rushton Park after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 13. (Toddlers in the IPC Courtyard) We will have cookies and lemonade for everyone to enjoy and eggs to hunt for all the kids!

IPC YOUTH ANNUAL TOPGOLF: All Youth and 6th graders are invited to attend our welcome event at Topgolf in Birmingham on Sunday, April 13. Pick-up and drop-off at Topgolf. Cost is \$50 per person (includes food and golf). For questions, contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

NOW & FOREVER ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF DINNER:

IPC Foundation and Church present a very special evening featuring Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell. Guests will enjoy a seated dinner with wine while learning how IPC's mission can thrive for generations to come. Join us Friday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the IPC Great Hall. Kindly confirm your attendance by April 14 at IPCForever.org. Due to limited seating, we encourage you to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Sunday, April 13 - Sunday, April 20

- Palm Sunday, April 13, Worship services at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall
- Maundy Thursday, April 17, Worship Service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Good Friday Friday, April 18, Worship Service at 12 p.m. (Noon) in the Sanctuary
- Easter Sunday, April 20, Worship Services at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall

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

JOHN N. LUKENS LIBRARY: In memory of Dr. John M. Lyons.

BAPTISM

Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism of Cecilia Yang.

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: (8:45 a.m.) Caleb Siegel and Nathaniel Siegel

(11:00 a.m.) Laura Donovan and Alex Pledger

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Adam Pandolfi, french horn

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