

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

eight forty-five o'clock
eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Amid the rush where can I rest? Amid the noise where can I be quiet?
Amid so much speaking how can I listen? Among so many voices how
can I hear the One Voice? O God, Center and Soul of all, lead me back
to Thee. Amen *from a prayer by Henry M. Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Aria" David Ashley White

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Turner

*HYMN 401 - "Here in This Place" GATHER US IN

CALL TO WORSHIPRev. Clayton

Minister: I will bless the Lord at all times;

All: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Minister: O magnify the Lord with me,

All: and let us exalt God's name together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have been angry with the world and nursed grudges against our adversaries. We have hoarded the fruits of our labors rather than share our bounty with the needy. We have not built up our neighbors with words of kindness but have indulged in evil gossip. We have not forgiven the wrongs others have done, even though we desire your forgiveness toward us in Jesus Christ. Heal us, O God, and give us the grace to love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

KYRIE ELEISON *(All Singing)*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.
Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."

*GLORIA PATRI *(The Presbyterian Hymnal, p. 581)*

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 34:1-8 (Pew Bible, p. OT508)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO - "Gladly Would I Take Upon Me" from *St. Matthew Passion*

J. S. Bach

Gladly would I take upon me cross and cup, and all his burden, could I follow Christ my Lord. Lo, our Lord, in love our burden sharing, bears for us the cross with all its shame. He has lightened all our sorrow.

SECOND LESSON - John 6:35, 41-51 (Pew Bible, p. NT98) ... Rev. Turner

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 432 - "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"REPTON

During the singing of this hymn, children, kindergarten and younger, may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for worship care.

SERMON - HOW HIGH IS YOUR REACH?..... Rev. Turner

The Response to the Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*In Unison*)

Jesus lived with a constant sense of his Father’s presence. He put God’s claim on his life above all else. He joined others in God’s worship and praise. He drew strength from the Scriptures. He prayed and taught his disciples to pray. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God’s reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability and time. It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God’s work, celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord’s goodness. We need constantly to search out God’s way in Scripture, not expecting detailed direction for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God’s present claim on us, and to assure us of God’s grace and comfort. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for all. Life in God’s presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

from A Declaration of Faith

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- * The Offertory Statement
- * The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....
OLD HUNDREDTH
- * The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Solo - "A Contrite Heart" Ludwig van Beethoven
To thee, O Lord, to thee I cry for mercy; Thy loving kindness now impart; O
hear my call in pity I implore thee, come cleanse my contrite, waiting heart.
Create in me a pure and upright spirit that I may follow all thy ways. Restore to
me the joy of thy salvation, and I will sing thy love and praise. My song shall
ever tell thy loving kindness; my heart will sing thy righteousness; Thou wilt
receive, for thou wilt e'er receive the broken spirit; A contrite heart, Lord, thou
wilt bless. My heart will ever sing thy righteousness. *from Psalm 51*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 308 - "O God in Whom All Life Begins" NOEL

* CHARGE

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE - "Epilogue" Norman Gilbert

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S VISITORS! We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please provide contact information on the Worship Register. We hope you will visit the Welcome Table in the Parlor after the service, where our Welcome Team is eager to meet you over refreshments and share more information about life at IPC and church membership. Contact Cindy Shaw at 933-3696 or cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the Reverend W. B. (Pete) Clifford. THE ROSE in the Children's Chapel is given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth on August 1, 2018 of Carlisle Parsons Morgan, daughter of James and Caitie (Parsons) Morgan. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the Glory of God and in honor of all past and present military personnel.

A SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE for all ages continues this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Rev. Lucy Turner is preaching. Communion will be served and nursery care will be available. Second Sunday Supper will follow the service. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 for supper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

SPECIAL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SPEAKERS: Summer Adult Sunday School Classes conclude this morning. From 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. there are two classes available: Dr. Jeff Leonard's *Stepping Back: Considering The World That Produced The New Testament*, a study on the politics of Jesus' day, the various groups of his time, and issues of the Jewish background of the New Testament, in Highland Hall and *TED Talks: Faith Worth Sharing*. Watch and discuss a series of DVD talks from TED speakers including Brene Brown, Susan David, Elizabeth Lev, and Virginia Cobbs in Room 306.

A DEACON ROUNDTABLE EVENT titled "The Well Being of Our Aging Parents" will be held on August 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. The event will include dinner and discussion about different stages in the process of caring for our parents. Resource persons from Montgomery and Birmingham will be present to advise us and answer questions. We know that navigating the changing child-parent relationship can be challenging as parents grow older, and this event will address some of those challenges. All IPC members of all ages are invited and encouraged to bring friends, neighbors, and parents. Childcare will be provided; cost is \$5.00. RSVP online or contact blays@ipc-usa.org for information.

CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, August 19, 2018, to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The business meeting will begin immediately following the worship service. The purposes of the meeting are: to elect Elders for the class of 2021; to elect Deacons for the class of 2021; to elect a President and Vice-President of the congregation; to elect members of the IPC Foundation Board of Directors; to elect the Representative Nominating Committee class of 2021. No other business may be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session: Dr. William J. Carl III, Moderator; Beverley T. Krannich, Clerk.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION KICKOFF: Next Sunday is the Christian Education kickoff. Adults will have the opportunity to enjoy breakfast, learn about our Fall Christian Education offerings, visit classes on the third floor and meet class leaders. For children, two-year-olds will gather in G-05. Three-year-olds through 6th graders will meet in Rooms 111, 112, and 113 for inflatables, games and ice cream. The youth will meet in Room 101 in the morning and they are having a Fall kickoff party at the Fresh Air Farm from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, August 26 all regular Sunday School classes will begin.

OUR AUGUST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP will meet on August 20 at 12:00 noon in Room G39. Please note this change in the schedule. The group is led by Louis Josof, a cancer counselor at St. Vincent's Bruno Cancer Center. The group is open to anyone battling cancer themselves who has a loved one with cancer. The group is open to the community as well as IPC. For more information, please contact Brian Lays, blays@ipc-usa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

ON SUNDAY, August 26 our worship series of Evensong Services begins its sixth season at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service, sung by the IPC Camerata, will feature the choral music of Craig Phillips, Peter Aston, and Philip Wilby. The 30 minute service will be followed by a brief organ recital, performed by Dr. Jeff McLelland. Childcare is available.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS RESUME: The Westminster Choir (Grades 7-12) begins rehearsals on Sunday, August 26, 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.; Children's Choir (Grades 4-6) Sunday, August 26, Donut Fellowship at 8:45 a.m., rehearsals from 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Contact the music office at 933-3700 or **bethmiddleton13@gmail.com** for more information about children and youth choirs.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Community Ministries
The Rev. Lucy E. Turner, Executive Associate Pastor
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director, Music and Fine Arts
John Lyons, Baritone

Dr. William J. Carl III, Senior Pastor
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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)