

# Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



## Service for the Lord's Day

*Baptism of Our Lord*

JANUARY 11, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

# Welcome to IPC!

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FOUNDED IN 1915, Independent Presbyterian Church has long held a commitment to glorifying the triune God through worship, the use of beauty and the arts, and serving our community in Jesus' name. From the beginning, our founders sought to establish a church reflecting God's love for humanity and humanity's love for God.

Today, we continue this legacy by cultivating meaningful worship, nurturing our congregation to grow as disciples of Jesus, and engaging in acts of service that reflect Christ's command to love God and love our neighbors. Whether you are a life-long follower of Jesus, a new believer, or still curious, know that all are welcome here.

If this is your first visit, you are invited to join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. We look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church.

Children are always welcome to worship with us in the Sanctuary. Materials to build a Worship Bag are in the Parlor before each service. Please replace the items when the service ends. Children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for childcare at the time noted in the service.

We are so grateful that you are here. Please sign the friendship pad located in the pew racks, so we know you are worshiping with us today.

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*THE COVER features a 2018 acrylic painting of IPC's exterior by McKenzie Kirk Brannon (1960–2025), a beloved friend of IPC whose spirit and art touched the heart of Community Ministries for many years.*

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# The Gathering for Worship

*We gather as a Family of Faith and prepare our hearts to worship God.*

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## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of all life, who hast sent Thy Son our Lord to impart Thy life to us, we beseech Thee to grant us anew a realizing sense of the graciousness of the gift. Teach us the heavenly quality and the infinite vigor of that life, which is Thine and His—and ours, if we are hid with Him in Thee. Amen.

*from “Beginning the Day” by Henry Edmonds*

## PRELUDE

*“Gymnopédie No. 1”*

Erik Satie

*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

*“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts”*

George Thalben-Ball

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord, most high. Amen.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalms 103*

**Rev. Seamon**

**Minister:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**People:** **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.**

**Minister:** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People:** **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**

**Minister:** As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

**People:** **Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

❖ HYMN 611

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

HYMN TO JOY

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you do not change with the changing years, but we are creatures of time. As we look back at the road we have traveled, we give thanks for your faithful mercies along the way. Where the road has been dark, you have not failed us though we have often failed you. Forgive us we pray. You are our guide and our goal, our strength and our stay. In this new year, we would walk with you, for you alone can bring us to our journey's end in peace. Amen.

*Leslie Weatherhead*

*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)

*“Glory Be to the Father”*

GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Seamon

(8:45 a.m.) Crawford William Covington

(11:00 a.m.) Hayes Patrick McCloskey

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## ❖ APOSTLES' CREED

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.

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## The Word

*We listen for the word of God through confession, passing the peace,  
Scripture, and preaching.*

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## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mr. Tittle

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-17

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 2

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

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## ANTHEM

*“Listen, Sweet Dove”*

Grayston Ives

Listen, sweet dove, unto my song, And spread thy golden wings in me; Hatching my tender heart so long, Till it get wing and flie away with thee. Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow The earth did like a heav’n appear, The starres were coming down to know If they might mend their wages and serve here. The sunne which once did shine alone Hung down his head and wisht for night. When he beheld twelve sunnes for one Going about the world and giving light.

*George Herbert*

*During the singing of this anthem, children may follow the acolyte down the center aisle. Children 1st through 3rd grade are invited to Working on Worship (WOW) in the Chapel in the 11:00 a.m. service, and children kindergarten and younger will go to the Ground Floor for childcare.*

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## SERMON

*“Wrestling in the Dark”*

**Rev. Long**

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# The Response to the Word

*We respond to the hearing of God’s word through reflection, prayer, and offering.*

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### ❖ HYMN 687

*“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

ST. ANNE

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### ❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Rev. Newton**

*To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.*

### ❖ THE DOXOLOGY (HYMN 606)

*“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Love Bade Me Welcome”*

David Hurd

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, guiltie of dust and sinne. But quicke’y Love observing me grow slack from my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, if I lacked anything. A guest, I answer’d, worthy to be here: Love said, you shall be he. I, the unkinde, ungrateful? Ah, my deare, I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand and smiling did reply, who made the eyes but I? Truth, Lord but I have marr’d them: let my shame go where it doth deserve. And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame? My deare, then I will serve. You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat: so I did sit and eat.

*George Herbert*

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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.**

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# The Sending

*We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors.*

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❖ HYMN 475

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

NETTLETON

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❖ BENEDICTION

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❖ POSTLUDE

*“Voluntary on Westminster Abbey”*

Robert Wetzler

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

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## Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
**Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Blair, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence S. Bissell, and**  
**Mr. Clarence “Clancy” S. Blair, Jr.**  
.....

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
**Kenneth Earl Little**, Captain, U.S. Air Force, Judge Advocate General’s Corps; stationed  
in Augsburg, Germany, and Izmir, Turkey, in the 1950s; father of Stephen Penfield Little,  
Sr.; grandfather of Stephen Penfield Little, Jr.

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## Today’s Baptisms

**Crawford William Covington**, born February 12, 2025, son of Chappell & Sloan  
Covington, brother of Dorothy Harpe Covington, grandson of Mr. Sid Covington, Jr.,  
Ms. Susan Covington, Mr. Merrill Stewart, Jr., and Mrs. Julia Roth.  
.....

**Hayes Patrick McCloskey**, born March 31, 2025, son of Cella & Sam McCloskey,  
grandson of Dina & Stan Adam, Alan McCloskey, and Missy & David Jones,  
great-grandson of Lynne Simmons.

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## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome **Gaige Tittle** to IPC as our Seminary Intern through IPC’s  
Pastoral Student Internship Program. Gaige is a first-year seminary student at Beeson  
Divinity School at Samford University. He is a recent graduate of the University of North  
Alabama, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology, and he officially joined IPC in  
December after participating in our New Member Class. Gaige grew up Pentecostal and  
comes to IPC from The Episcopal Church.

Gaige will help lead worship this morning and will visit Sunday School classes. In the  
months ahead, he will be getting involved in various aspects of ministry at IPC. Please  
join us in giving Gaige a warm IPC welcome.



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## Announcements

### Working on Worship (WOW)

**TODAY** | *Join Us Each Second Sunday*

This morning during the 11 am worship service, children in grades 1–3 are invited to participate in Working on Worship (WOW), a program designed to help young worshippers engage more meaningfully in our worship services. On second Sundays through May, children will follow the acolyte out of worship for hands-on learning. Pick-up will be from the Chapel at the end of the service.

### Summer Camp Registration

*Now Open*

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School and Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP) for IPC members. VBS is designed for preschool children ages 2–5, and BTMP is open to elementary students and youth in grades K–12. Register and find additional details on the Sign Up Links page at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

### Day School Registration

*Opens January 12*

Day School registration for IPC members opens tomorrow, January 12. Visit the Sign Up Links page at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) to find the registration link and learn more.

### Western Carolina Mission Trip

*Trip: June 7–14, 2026 | Info meeting: Jan. 14*

Join us as we continue relief efforts following Hurricane Helene. This hands-on trip will focus on helping families rebuild and restore their homes and communities. An informational meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 5:30 p.m. in GH1. To learn more, contact Rev. David Seamon at [dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org).

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## Winter Term

### Sunday School Classes Resume

**TODAY** | *10:00 a.m.*

- “...in the beginning was the Word...”  
Discussing John’s Gospel of Faith  
(*Reformed Bible Study Class*), RM 309
- New Testament Rhetoric: An  
Introductory Guide to the Art of  
Persuasion (*Wonder Years & Seekers  
Classes*), RM 305 & 306
- Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at  
the Ten Commandments (*Presbyterian  
Women*), RM 304
- Presbyterian 101: Digging Deep Into  
Our Faith (*Combined classes: Bridges,  
Crossroads, Trenches and Foundations*),  
RM 308
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
(*2K-6th Grade*), Ground and 1st Floor
- Nursery (*6 weeks–18 months*), RM G05
- Youth Sunday School (*7th-12th Grade*)  
resumes Sunday, Jan. 25

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## Winter Term

### Wednesday Nights Resume Jan. 14

Wednesday night programming and dinner are back. Reserve dinner by the previous Tuesday at noon. Find more details on the next page and at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

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## Prayer List

Copies of IPC's current prayer list are available in the Parlor and Narthex. Our Intercessory Prayer Group meets each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel to pray by name for those on the list. To submit a prayer request for a loved one, yourself, or any prayer need, please contact Connie Logan at [clogan@ipc-usa.org](mailto:clogan@ipc-usa.org).

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## Special Gifts Received

### Wayne & Frederica White Fund:

In memory of Perry Grantham and Don & Berit Phillips, parents of Laurie & Jeff Grantham.

**Kirkwood Funds:** (*Horizon Fund*) In memory Mr. William F. Edmonds, Mr. Kevin G. Getsinger, Mr. John T. Guschke, Jr., Mrs. Shirley S. Prey, and Mrs. Antoinette Waldrop.

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## Give To IPC

### Mail a Check:

Independent Presbyterian Church  
3100 Highland Avenue S.,  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

### Give Online:

Scan to give in a secure, convenient format online.



### Text to Give:

To give online, text GIVE to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.

### 2026 Pledge:

Make your annual pledge online by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the steps.

### Thank You for Your Gifts:

Questions on how to give can be directed to Margaret Lane Hollingsworth at [mhollingsworth@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mhollingsworth@ipc-usa.org).

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## Watch Online

We invite you to worship with us from wherever you are.

Join the 11:00 a.m. livestream at [YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham](https://www.youtube.com/@IPCBirmingham)

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# This Week At IPC

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

**8:45 A.M.** Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
**10:00 A.M.** Sunday School  
**11:00 A.M.** Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
**5:00 P.M.** Table Worship, Highland Hall

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- Discussing John's Gospel of Faith (Reformed Bible Study Class), RM 309
  - New Testament Rhetoric (Wonder Years & Seekers Classes), RM 305 & 306
  - Love Carved in Stone (Presbyterian Women), RM 304
  - Presbyterian 101: Digging Deep Into Our Faith (Combined classes: Bridges, Crossroads, Trenches & Foundations), RM 308
  - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floor
  - Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05
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## MONDAY, JANUARY 12

**9:15 A.M.** Home for Faith, Garage  
**1:00 P.M.** Bridge, RM 308/309  
**5:30 P.M.** Yoga, RM 301  
**6:00 P.M.** Boy Scouts, Scout Hut  
**7:00 P.M.** Lakeview AA, RM 307

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## TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

**11:00 A.M.** Intercessory Prayer, Chapel  
**1:30 P.M.** Centering Prayer, RM 304  
**3:00 P.M.** Chair Yoga, RM 304

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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

**9:00 A.M.** Yoga, RM 301  
**10:30 A.M.** Women at the Well, Garage  
**10:30 A.M.** Caregiver Connect Support Group, RM 304  
**1:00 P.M.** Bridge, RM 308  
**3:00 P.M.** Living After Loss Support Group, RM 304  
**5:30 P.M.** Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304  
**7:00 P.M.** Lakeview AA, RM 307

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### WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

**5:00 P.M.** The Upward Way, RM 305/306  
**5:30 P.M.** Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall  
**5:30 P.M.** Western Carolina Mission Trip Informational Meeting, Great Hall 1  
**5:30 P.M.** Home for Faith, RM 105  
**5:30 P.M.** Kids ROCK Musical Rehearsals & Childcare, 1st Floor  
**6:00 P.M.** Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218  
**6:00 P.M.** The Lost Yet Sacred Misfits, RM 305/306  
**6:15 P.M.** IPC Camerata & Choir Rehearsals, Music Suite

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## THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

**11:00 A.M.** Knitting Ministry, RM 105  
**12:00 P.M.** Noon Bible Study with Rev. Clayton, RM 307

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## FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

**6:30 A.M.** Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2  
**4:30 P.M.** Youth depart for Gatlinburg Trip

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To learn more about our upcoming events and to register for classes, please *visit [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org)*.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:**

**The Rev. Kevin J. Long**, *Pastor*

**The Rev. D. Nicole Newton**, *Associate Pastor, Discipleship*

**The Rev. David J. Seamon**, *Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach*

**Mr. Gaige Tittle**, *Seminary Intern*

**Dr. Jeff R. McLelland**, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*

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**Acolyte:**

*(11:00 a.m.) Andrew Grover*

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The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir



**I N D E P E N D E N T**  
**P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H**

**The Rev. Kevin J. Long**, *Pastor*

3100 Highland Avenue, South  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

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**PHONE:** (205) 933-1830

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**OFFICE HOURS:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

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*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

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