

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to IPC!



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.

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.

THE COVER features a Celtic cross, an ancient Christian symbol. Its use by Presbyterian churches in the U.S. represents our historical ties with The Reformed Tradition and our Scottish roots. The circle of the cross represents eternity, and is symbolic of God and God's love, which has no beginning or end. The cross represents Jesus Christ and his saving death and resurrection.

IN KEEPING WITH TRADITIONAL LITURGICAL PRACTICES, our Sunday worship services during Lent change slightly to observe this most penitential season. The choir processes in silence, the Gloria Patri is omitted, the postlude takes on a more reflective nature, and a plain brass cross is placed on the Communion Table. In the same spirit of simplicity, we also scale back our bulletin cover, so that these intentional changes may deepen your observance of Lent and prepare your heart to experience the joy and glory of Easter more fully and abundantly.

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, give us faith that whatever ought to be will be. May we be confident that we can do whatever Thy will is that we shall do. May we find out Thy way, May we join ourselves to it, then leave all the rest with Thee. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Variations on Wondrous Love"

Gerald Near

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

Mr. Tittle

Minister: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

Minister: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble.

People: You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Minister: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

People: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

SILENT PROCESSION

❖ HYMN 166

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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. Clayton

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 2

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Kyrie” from *Requiem*, Op. 9

Maurice Duruflé

Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

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.

SERMON

“Lent: Do We Have To?”

Rev. Clayton

The Response to the Word

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

❖ HYMN 165

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

ERHALT UNS, HERR

❖ Rise in body or spirit.

❖ APOSTLES' CREED

Rev. Seamon

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 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.**

❖ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

arr. Harrison Oxley

Forty days and forty nights Thou wast fasting in the wild, Forty days and forty nights Tempted and yet undefiled. Sunbeams scorching all the day, Chilly dewdrops nightly shed, Prowling beasts about thy way, Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed. Let us thine endurance share, And from joys abstain, With thee watching unto pray'r, Strong to suffer pain. And if Satan, vexing sore, Flesh or spirit should assail, Thou, his vanquisher before, Grant we may not faint nor fail. So shall we have peace divine, Holier gladness ours shall be, Round us too shall angels shine Such as minister'd to thee. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, Ever constant by thy side, That with thee we may appear At th'eternal Eastertide. Amen.

G.H. Smyttan and Francis Pott

Announcements

Book Club: Books & Becoming

Monday, February 23 | 5:30 p.m. | RM 303

Join Rev. Nicole Newton for the first gathering of Books & Becoming, a monthly book club exploring how reading shapes faith, identity, and the way we live together. Meeting on the fourth Monday of each month, the group will start reading *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church* by Amy Kenny.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 24 | 11:30 a.m.

Join the Lunch Bunch for good food and fellowship at North Italia (225 Summit Blvd.). This is a self-pay event. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page, so we will have an accurate headcount.

Observe the Lenten Season

Lent invites us into a season of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Learn more about worship opportunities, devotionals, and ways to engage the season at ipc-usa.org.

Lenten Chapel & Lunch

Wednesdays during Lent: February 25–April 1

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a noonday worship service in the Chapel, followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Reservations are only required if you plan to stay for lunch. Reserve lunch by

Tuesday at noon each week at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Easter Memorial Donations

Deadline: Sunday, March 22

Honor the memory of your loved ones with an Easter Memorial donation. To ensure names are included in the Easter bulletin, please submit your contribution by Sunday, March 22. Contribution envelopes are available in the pew racks and at the receptionist's desk, and the online donation form can be found on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org.

Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Series

Sunday, March 1 | Worship & Sunday School

IPC welcomes guest preacher Rev. Dr. Anna M. V. Bowden, Associate Professor of New Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Bowden will also lead an adult Sunday School class in the Great Hall. This series is supported by the Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Fund, maintained by the IPC Foundation as part of the Focus on Faith Committee.

KultureCity Lunch & Learn

Sunday, March 1 | 12:15 pm | GHI

Join us after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for a Lunch & Learn focused on sensory

Announcements

inclusion, neurodiversity, and IPC's initiative to become KultureCity certified. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Woven & Wonder Series: Growing Faith Together

Thursday, March 5 | Two Sessions

Faith is formed over time through shared practices, meaningful relationships, and the everyday moments of life. Join author and faith-formation leader Meredith Miller for a churchwide day of conversation and reflection. The morning session (10:00–11:30 a.m.) is designed for church leaders, educators, and ministry volunteers, while the evening session (5:00–7:00 p.m.) includes a reception, book signing, and a talk for parents, grandparents, and all who walk alongside children. Sign up at ipc-usa.org.

Young Adults Bible Study

Sundays | 3:45 p.m. | Highland Hall Loft

Gaige Tittle, Seminary Intern, will begin leading a Young Adults Bible Study on Sunday, March 1, walking through Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. This weekly gathering from 3:45–4:45 p.m. offers space before the Table service for thoughtful study, conversation, and growing together in faith.

Congregational Meeting

A meeting is called to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The business meeting will begin immediately following the worship service

Rev. Lant Davis, Moderator

Opening Prayer

Nomination of Clerk

Georgia Miller, Elder

Declaration of Quorum

Finance Presentation:

2025 Year End, 2026 Budget

Jessica Grover, Chair of Finance

IPC Foundation Report

Sumner Starling,

President of the Foundation

IPC Now & Forever Legacy Giving Campaign Update

Sheri Cook, Chair of the Campaign

Changes to Clergy Terms of Call for Ministers of Word & Sacrament

Carl Albright, Chair of Human Resources

President's Report

Tommy Thomson

Other Business

Closing Prayer

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.

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.

Watch Online

We invite you to worship with us
from wherever you are.
Join the 11:00 a.m. livestream at
[YouTube.com/@IPC Birmingham](https://www.YouTube.com/@IPC Birmingham)

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship & Annual Meeting, 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
 - Love Carved in Stone (Presbyterian Women), RM 304
 - Presbyterian 101: Digging Deep Into Our Faith (Combined classes: Bridges, Crossroads, Trenches & Foundations), RM 306
 - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floor
 - Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05
-

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 9:15 A.M. Home for Faith, Garage
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308/309
5:30 P.M. Yoga, RM 301
5:30 P.M. Books & Becoming Book Club, RM 303
6:00 P.M. Boy Scouts, Scout Hut
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
11:30 A.M. Lunch Bunch, North Italia
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- 1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 304
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 9:00 A.M. Yoga, RM 301
10:30 A.M. Women at the Well, RM 101
10:30 A.M. Caregiver Support Group, RM 304
NOON Chapel & Lunch, Chapel & Great Hall
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
5:00 P.M. Youth Midweek Meet Up, RM 101
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
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 306
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Noon Bible Study, RM 307
2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
12:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
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To learn more about our upcoming events and to register for classes, please visit ipc-usa.org.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, *Associate Pastor, Congregational Care & Adult Education*

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

Rev. Lant Davis, *Retired Minister and IPC Choir Member*

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

Mr. Gaige Tittle, *Seminary Intern*

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

PHONE: (205) 933-1830

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

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

ipc-usa.org