

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 11, 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, we look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church. All are invited to the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. To learn more about IPC or membership, please email us at membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the New to IPC page on our website.

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 worshipping with us today.

*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.*

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Great God, I know Thy resources and Thy bounty, but I am not using them. I am dull and heavy when Thou wouldst have me lustrous with Thy spirit. I am weighted down with clay when the air is vibrant with wings. I am alone and hungry instead of dining with the King. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Cortège et Litanie"

Marcel Dupré

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

"Draw Nigh to God"

George Thalben-Ball

Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:28-31

Rev. Clayton

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.

❖ HYMN 299

"You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

HANOVER

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Jesus Christ 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."

❖ 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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Word

We listen for the word of God through scripture, music, and preaching.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 3:14-22

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 196

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“O Thou, the Central Orb”

Orlando Gibbons

Janet Ort and Leah Hendrix, *soprano*

Lara Wilson and Christine Wells, *alto*

Asher Entrekin, *tenor*

Willian Pereira da Silva and Richard Stump, *baritone*

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most High, eternal Light of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God’s ordaining counsel, as Thy sight gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine. Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day in fellowship with thee, transforming clay to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine. Amen.

H. R. Bramley

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.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Response to the Word

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

❖ HYMN 846

“Fight the Good Fight”

DUKE STREET

❖ APOSTLES’ CREED

Mr. Tittle

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

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Like a Child”

Loretta Ellenberger, arr. Rupert Lang

Lara Wilson, *alto*

Like a child that is quieted is my soul. Out of the depths I cry to thee, Lord you hear my prayer. And in your presence, I can see Christ in people around me. Like a child I am O so restless. Like a child I cannot be still, and know that you are ruler of us all Like a child I long to trust you completely. Like a child I cannot be still, and know that you are there when I call. Just like a child that is quieted is my soul. Amen.

based on Psalm 131:2 and 130:1

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

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

❖ **HYMN 268**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE**

“Festive Scherzo”

Malcolm Archer

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Henry V. Graham; Miss Elinor Murdoch;
Mr. & Mrs. Anson W. Allen; Mr. & Mrs. Donald N. Murdoch;
Mr. Donald N. Murdoch, Jr.; and Mr. A. Allen Murdoch.**

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The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **John Edward Salter**, Master Sergeant U.S. Air Force, who served
24 years beginning with the Korean Conflict and then Vietnam; father of Laural Myers.

Announcements

Special Sunday School Series

TODAY | Oct. 11–Nov. 1 | 10 a.m. | Room 305

Join us this morning for “The Gospel at Risk? Confessing the Faith Today,” a four-week series led by professors from Columbia Theological Seminary exploring the meaning and importance of our Creeds. We will examine whether the gospel is at risk today and how generations of Christians dealt with that issue in their time through confessional statements.

Working on Worship (WOW)

TODAY | Join Us Each Second Sunday

This morning during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, children in grades 1–3 are invited to participate in Working on Worship (WOW), a program designed to help young worshipers engage more

meaningfully in our worship services.

On second Sundays, 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.

IPC Youth Camping Trip

Oct. 17–18 | Living River

Grades 7–12 are invited to an overnight camping trip at Living River, our Presbytery’s camp in Montevallo. Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Harvest for Hunger Kick-Off

Sunday, Oct. 18–Sunday, Nov. 22

Harvest for Hunger is IPC’s annual campaign to fill every available shelf in our Blessing Boxes and Weekend Buddy Bags room with food and hygiene items.

Announcements

Beginning next Sunday, Oct. 18, you can pick up a Harvest for Hunger grocery bag at IPC. The list of needed items will be printed on the bag and available at ipc-usa.org. Please return filled bags by Sunday, Nov. 22, which is Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day.

IPC Crop Drop + Family Fun Finale

Sunday, Oct. 18 | 2:00 p.m. | IPC Parking Lot

Kick off our annual Harvest for Hunger campaign and help bag sweet potatoes for neighbors facing food insecurity at IPC's Annual Crop Drop from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Ages 5 and up are invited to serve, with preschool childcare provided. Families are invited to stay for our NEW! Family Fun Finale, featuring inflatables, Son's Donuts, face painting, and more, which begins once all the potatoes are bagged. It's also "Nice to Have You in Highland Park Day," and we hope to welcome our Highland Park neighbors. Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Beer & Hymns

Monday, Oct. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | The Grocery, 2823 Central Ave., Homewood

Sing old-time hymns (and a few new ones) in a relaxed setting with good food and great company. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

When the Generations Meet: Caring for Aging Parents

Wednesday, Oct. 21 | 5:30 p.m. | GHI

Adults caring for aging parents while also supporting children, work, or other family responsibilities are invited to hear Dr. Beverly E. Thorn, Professor Emerita of Psychology at the University of Alabama, discuss aging, dementia care, end-of-life issues, and the challenges of caring across generations. Dinner and childcare are included with preregistration at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Volunteers Needed for Fall Fun Day

Saturday, Oct. 24 | Children's Fresh Air Farm

Help welcome Summer Learning Program campers back to the Farm for Fall Fun Day! IPC volunteers are needed for shifts between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to help make it a special day of fun for our campers. Let us know if you plan to attend at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Black Belt Immersion Trip

Join the Global Ministries team for a hands-on immersion trip Nov. 6-8 in Alabama's Black Belt. The trip will include a service project alongside Rural Studio, along with visits to sites central to the area's civil rights and cultural history. Learn more at ipc-usa.org.

This Week at IPC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School Classes
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
3:45 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study, HH Patio
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other *Presbyterian Women*, RM 304
- The Gospel at Risk? Confessing the Faith Today, *Adult Combined Classes*, RM 305
- Epistle to the Hebrews: Its Social and Cultural World, *Wonder Years*, RM 306
- The Book of Romans, *Reformed*, RM 309
- The Prayers of Henry Edmonds, *Bridges*, GH1
- No Youth Sunday School
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
- Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

NOON Bible Study with Lucy Turner, RM 304
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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 301

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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
10:30 A.M. Zoom Bible Study
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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

5:00 P.M. The Upward Way, RM 305
5:00 P.M. Youth Grant Team, RM 101
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
5:30 P.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
5:30 P.M. KidsROCK, Ground & 1st Floors
6:00 P.M. Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Bible Study with Rev. Clayton, RM 307
1:30 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School Classes
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
2:00 P.M. Crop Drop + Family Finale, Parking Lot
3:45 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study, HH Patio
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall
6:00 P.M. Youth Group, Highland Hall Garage

To learn more about our upcoming events and to register for classes, please visit ipc-usa.org.

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.

Thank You for Your Gifts:

Questions on how to give can be
directed to Margaret Lane H. Wolff 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/@IPCBirmingham](https://www.YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham)

Visiting IPC?

To learn more about joining IPC, email
us at membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the
New to IPC page on our website.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

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

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

Mr. Gaige Tittle, *Seminary Intern*

Acolyte:

(8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Molly Wykle

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

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