

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 12, 2025 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to IPC!



FOUNDED IN 1915, Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) has long held a commitment to glorifying God through the use of beauty in every form as well as community service. 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, and engaging in acts of service that reflect our call to love God and love our neighbors. All are welcome.

Thank you for joining us today. Please sign our friendship pad located in the pew racks so we know who is worshipping with us today.

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 telling you more about our church.

Children are 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 in kindergarten and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for childcare during the service.

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

God, keep me true. Amid all winds hold me to my course. Through weakness and disappointment and pain let me fare straight on. But, O Pilot of my soul, may my course be Thy course. Instruct me every day. Be my chart, my compass, my Helmsman, my all. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Fantasie in G Major, BWV 572"

J.S. Bach

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 "O Lord, thou has searched me out and known me" George Thalben-Ball

O Lord, thou has searched me out and known me; whither shall I go then from thy presence?

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Psalm 30"

Rev. Clayton

Minister: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

People: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Minister: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

People: You have turned my mourning into dancing.

Minister: You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

People: O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

❖ HYMN 35

“Praise Ye, the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we have filled our lives with so much noise that we can no longer hear your still small voice. We are distracted because we choose to avoid the truth. We are busy because we do not pray. We are lost because we do not follow our Savior Jesus Christ. By your boundless mercy, find us, forgive us, and bring us home to you. In Christ’s 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.”

❖ 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

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:6-10

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 104

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Benedictus” from *Messe Basse*

Gabriel Fauré

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 118:26

*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

“Detour Ahead”

Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

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

❖ HYMN 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

❖ 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.

❖ 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

“Let All Who Pray”

arr. John Ferguson

Let all who pray the prayer Christ taught first clear the cluttered heart. Make room to breathe the living thought those well-worn words impart. Dismiss the fear that this world drifts with no one in command. Your pulse and breath are signs and gifts from God’s attentive hand. Refine and test each passing aim against this final one: has your life hallowed heaven’s name and has God’s will been done? Discard each vengeful hope that’s fed the dreams of wars you’ll win, then freely ask for daily bread and pardon from your sin. Examine how temptation breeds inside the mind’s dark maze, acknowledging that your life needs deliverance from its ways. By faithful discipline prepare an inward holy space that when you offer Jesus’ prayer your heart may fill with grace.

Thomas H. Troeger

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 269

“Lead On, O King Eternal ”

LANCASHIRE

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“Postlude in D Minor”

Johann Rinck

❖ *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 Mr. Henry V. Graham; Miss Elinor Murdoch; Mr. and Mrs. Anson W. Allen; Mr. and 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

Fall Grace Groups

TODAY | *Deadline to Register*

Grow in faith and fellowship this fall by joining a Grace Group at IPC. Groups meet this week through Nov. 16 to study *Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings* by Matthew L. Skinner. Sign up at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page or in the Parlor this morning.

IPC Foundation Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 11:30 a.m. | Great Hall Dining Room 1 | Register by Oct. 13

You're invited to join the IPC Foundation for a Lunch & Learn with Rev. Dr. Roger Dermody, Executive Director of Friends of Forman Christian College. Register at ipc-usa.org under the Sign Up Links page.

Rwanda Mission Trip

July 16–26, 2026

We invite you to join us for a life-changing journey to Rwanda, where we'll stay and visit with Archbishop Mbanda, explore the inspiring work being done at East African Christian College, and witness firsthand how God is reviving and restoring a country after genocide. We hope you'll consider being part of this journey of faith. For more information, please contact Betsy Holloway or Rev. David Seamon at dseamon@ipc-usa.org.

Announcements

The Dangerous Act of Worship:

Focus on Faith Intro Class

*Wednesdays, Oct. 8–29 | 6:00 p.m. |
Room 309*

Join us to preview Dr. Mark Labberton's book *The Dangerous Act of Worship*, as we prepare for Focus on Faith Sunday on Nov. 2. Together we'll explore: What is worship? Are we awake to God's purpose inside and outside the church walls? How does worship transform us and connect us to living our faith? No advance reading is required; come ready to listen, share, and grow together.

IPC Crop Drop 2025

*Sunday, Oct. 19 | 2:00–4:00 p.m. |
Large IPC Parking Lot*

Kick off our annual Harvest for Hunger campaign with a family-friendly Crop Drop! We need 100 volunteers along with 15 team leaders to help sack sweet potatoes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Childcare is available for children up to age 4 with registration. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Harvest for Hunger

Sunday, Oct. 19–Sunday, Nov. 23

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. Beginning next Sunday, Oct. 19, 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. 26, which is Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day.

Fall River Fest at Living River

*Sunday, Oct. 19 | 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. |
Living River*

Join members of our Presbytery for a day of nature, art, play, food, and fellowship at Living River's annual Fall River Fest! Enjoy fossil hunting, canoeing, painting by the lake, a river walk, live music, a chapel service, and family activities including a petting zoo, archery, and s'mores. This free, come-and-go event includes lunch. Please learn more at livingriver.org/fallriverfest.

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 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 on *YouTube @IPCBirmingham*.

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

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
6:00 P.M. IPC Now & Forever Dinner, Home of Merrill Stewart

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- Bonhoeffer's Life Together: A Classic Exploration of Faith in Community (Reformed Class), RM 309
- Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ (Presbyterian Women), RM 304
- The Biblical Prophetic Purpose (Wonder Years & Seekers Classes), RM 305 & 306
- In the Trenches: Faithful Families (New Parent Class), RM 302
- Foundations (Young Adults Class), RM 303
- Toddler Atrium & Nursery, Ground Floor

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 304
5:00 P.M. Joint Officer Dinner, Clubhouse on Highland

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

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
10:30 A.M. Zoom Bible Study
11:30 A.M. IPC Foundation Lunch & Learn, Great Hall Dining Room 1
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
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 305/306
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
5:30 P.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
5:30 P.M. Kids ROCK, Ground & 1st Floors
6:00 P.M. Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218
6:00 P.M. Whimsy Wednesdays, RM 302
6:00 P.M. Focus on Faith Preview Class, RM 309
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

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

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

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

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

Acolytes:

(11:00 a.m.) Alex Pledger

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Janet Ort, Soprano



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