

# Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



## Service for the Lord's Day

*The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

JUNE 28, 2026 | 10:00 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](mailto: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 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

Father, close us in Thy house, hide us in Thy heart. May every temptation be but a chance to grow stronger and to lean more confidently on Thy breast. May every pain and every disappointment be turned by Thy presence into a means of richer grace and deeper understanding. Amen.

*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

## PRELUDE

*"Ubi Caritas et Amor"*

arr. 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.*

## INTROIT

*"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found"*

George Thalben-Ball

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found: call ye upon him while he is near.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 25

Rev. Newton

Minister: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Lead the humble and teach them your way.

**People: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Minister: For you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

**People: Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep your decrees.**

Minister: Let us worship the Lord our God!

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## ❖ HYMN 645

*"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

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❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I have deceived myself, dear Christ, I confess it; I have fallen from the heights to the depths. O lift me up again, for well I know delusion came because I wanted it. If I presume again, I'll fall again, and fall to my undoing. Forgive my arrogance, and humble me by the grace of your salvation. It cannot be that I alone shall find you hard and unresponsive. Amen.

*Gregory of Nazianzus, d. 389 AD*

*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."*

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❖ 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.**

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

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SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Seamon

Virginia Nimrita Gill

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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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 20:7-12

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 107

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

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## ANTHEM

“How lovely are the messengers” from *St. Paul* Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is  
gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

*adapt. Romans 10:15*

*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.*

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## SERMON

“*The Longest Sermon in History*”

**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 475

“*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*”

NETTLETON

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## ❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

**Rev. Clayton**

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

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## ❖ 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

*“King of Glory, King of Peace”*

Eric Thiman

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee; and, that love may never cease, I will move thee. Thou has granted my request, thou has heard me; thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me. Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee, and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee. Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me, and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me. Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee; in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee. Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee: e'en eternity's too short to extol thee. Amen.

*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 260

*“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”*

HYFRYDOL

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❖ BENEDICTION

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❖ POSTLUDE

*“Fanfare”*

Kenneth Leighton

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## Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of **Ann M. Monk**.

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The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of **Paul Murray Lane**, AM3-U.S. Navy, Korean War veteran.

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The rose in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth  
of **Elizabeth "Ella" Skarbek Grizzle**, daughter of Sara & Charlie Grizzle, granddaughter  
of Martha & Chip Grizzle, born on May 22, 2026.

The rose in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth  
of **Helen Elizabeth Hartline**, daughter of Liz & Parker Hartline, granddaughter of  
Penney & Roger Hartline, born on May 25, 2026.

The rose in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth  
of **John "Jack" Robert Harris V**, son of Lauren & John Harris, born on June 1, 2026.

The rose in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth  
of **Davis Archer Pelham**, son of Erin & Heath Pelham, grandson of Gayle Pelham, born  
on June 10, 2026.

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## Today's Baptism

**Virginia Nimrita Gill**, born May 12, 2025, daughter of Margaret and Gobind Gill  
and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruffner Page.

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## Announcements

### Summer Sunday School

Adults and youth are invited to a combined Sunday School class at 9:00 a.m. from June 28 through August 30. Dr. Jeff Leonard will lead a series titled “Ten Kings of Israel: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Israel’s Monarchy” in RM 305/306. Childcare is available on the Ground Floor.

### Holiday Worship Schedule

*Sunday, July 5*

IPC will follow its holiday worship schedule on Sunday, July 5, with one worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School or Table worship service. In addition, IPC will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

### Biblical Explorations Trip: Greece

*Trip: October 3–13, 2026*

*Info Meeting: June 29 | 5:30 p.m.*

Biblical Explorations, with Rev. Susan Clayton and Dr. Jeff Leonard, invites you to journey through Greece October 3–13, 2026. This itinerary includes a host of sites connected with both the journeys of the Apostle Paul and the foundations of Western civilization. Join us for an information meeting on Monday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m. in GHI.

### Global Mission Trip: Dominican Republic

*Trip: January 16–23, 2027*

*Info Meeting: July 8 | 5:00 p.m.*

God calls us to receive and share the love of Jesus Christ across cultures, languages, and communities. Sign up to join us for a mission journey to the Dominican Republic January 16–23, 2027, at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page. Interested in learning more? Join us for an information meeting on Wednesday, July 8, at 5:00 p.m. in RM 218 or via Zoom, or contact Rev. David Seamon at [dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org).

### Support the Farm this Summer

We invite you to support IPC’s Summer Learning Program at the Children’s Fresh Air Farm. Visit [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) to sign up to tutor or donate snacks! Questions: Please contact Marion Dukes at (205) 623-2187 or [mdukes@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mdukes@ipc-usa.org).

### School Supply Drive

*Deadline to Contribute: Tuesday, July 7*

Help teachers in Camden, AL stock their classrooms. Find the supply wish list at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page. If you picked up a backpack to fill, please return by July 7. This youth-led project supports our partnership with Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Group in Camden, AL.

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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

**Community Ministries:** In memory of Alan Head and Wendy Hall Jacoway.

**Children's Fresh Air Farm:** In memory of Wendy Hall Jacoway and Jodie Ballenger.

**Food Pantry:** In honor of the marriage of Valerie Watson and Bill Stetler.

**Kirkwood Funds:** (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. Walter W. Bailey, Mr. William F. Edmonds, and Mrs. Ethelyn O. McPeters.

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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.

### Thank You for Your Gifts:

Questions on how to give can be directed to Margaret Lane H. Wolff 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 10:00 a.m. livestream at [YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham](https://www.youtube.com/@IPCBirmingham)

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## Visiting IPC?

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

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## This Week at IPC

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### SUNDAY, JUNE 28

- 9:00 A.M. Adult & Youth Sunday School, RM 305/306
- 9:00 A.M. Childcare, Ground Floor
- 10:00 A.M. Combined Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall

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### MONDAY, JUNE 29

- 1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308/309
- 5:30 P.M. Greece Trip Info Meeting, GH1
- 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, JUNE 30

- 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 304
- 5:00 P.M. Youth Patio Night, Garage

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### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

- 9:00 A.M. Yoga, RM 301
- 10:30 A.M. Caregiver Support Group, RM 304
- 1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
- 5:30 P.M. Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304
- 7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

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### THURSDAY, JULY 2

- 11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
- 2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308

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### FRIDAY, JULY 3

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
Church Offices Closed

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## Next Week

### Summer Grief Support Group: Living After Loss

*Wednesdays Beginning July 8 | 3:00 p.m. | Room 304*

A new session of Living After Loss, a support group for those navigating the emotional and spiritual journey of grief following any kind of loss, begins July 8 and will be facilitated by Dr. Stewart Jackson, licensed counselor, with Rev. Susan Clayton.

Contact Susan at [sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org) with any questions.

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

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

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

**Mr. Gregory Roberson**, *Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir*

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**Acolyte:** Andrew Grover

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

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

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

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

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