

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. | COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Gracious God, over all, yet in all and through all, Thou makest us one in Thy love, in Thy purpose and in Thy life. In Thee we meet and are merged. Bind us all together, so that every hunger and every fullness, every pain and every joy, shall be shared by every soul everywhere. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE "Grave-Adagio" from Sonata No. 2 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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 "The Spirit of the Lord filleth the world" George Thalben-Ball

The Spirit of the Lord filleth the world. O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Tittle

Minister: Blessed are we

People: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Minister: Blessed are we

People: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Minister: Blessed are we

People: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Minister: Blessed are we

People: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

Minister: Blessed are you, our God

People: whose name is love, whose heart is justice, whose gift is grace, whose life is hope

Minister: Let us worship God!

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ HYMN 511

“Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven”

LLANFAIR

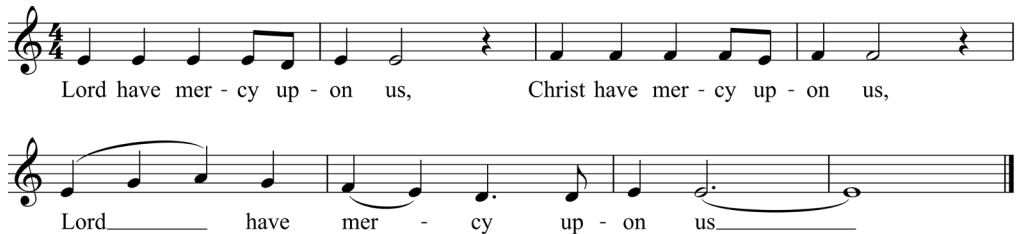
❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You asked for our hands, that you might use them for your purpose; we gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice; we gave you a whisper, for we were afraid. You asked for our eyes to see the pain of the world; we closed them, for we did not want to see. Forgive us, O God, for our calculated efforts to serve you— only when it is convenient for us to do so, only in those places where it feels safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Forgive us, renew us, and send us out to hear your call and claim anew. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

❖ KYRIE ELEISON

from The Independent Service by Dr. Jeff McLelland



Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,

Lord _____ have mer - cy up - on us _____

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text, with notes for 'Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,'. The second staff continues the melody for 'Lord _____ have mer - cy up - on us _____', with a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note or a space for improvisation.

❖ 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.”

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ GLORIA PATRI

from The Independent Service

The musical score for 'Gloria Patri' is written on three staves in treble clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er, world with - out end. A - men.' The melody features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of each line and a final whole note on 'men'.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Seamon

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Clayton

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1–12

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 3

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ HYMN 372

“O for a World”

AZMON

During the singing of this hymn, children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for childcare.

SERMON

“Beatitude”

Rev. Seamon

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Response to the Word

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

❖ NICENE CREED

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. 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.**

❖ Rise in body or spirit.

❖ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Lord of all hopefulness”

Irish Traditional, arr. Barry Rose

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy, Be there at our waking and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labours and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, Be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Rev. Newton

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po-wer and might. Hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain!

AMEN

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

A - men, A - men, A - men!

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“The Lord is My Light”

Fred Gramann

Willian Pereira da Silva, baritone

The Lord is my light and salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Whom shall I fear? Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. May I dwell in the house of the Lord for all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord. I believe that I shall see the beauty of the Lord in the land of the living. Whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

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

❖ HYMN 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“Allegro Maestoso-Fugue” from Sonata No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Rolla Earl Beck, Jr.**, First Special Service Force, European Theatre WWII; father of Murray Beck and the late Reb Beck, grandfather of Daniel Beck and Mallie Beck Riggs.

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Anina “Nina” Petitt Rose Toboni, born on January 16, 2026, daughter of Anna & Michael Toboni, sister of Hal Toboni & Bud Toboni.

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Anne Carl “Charlie” Evans, born on January 18, 2026, daughter of Suzanne & Adam Evans, sister of Hank Evans & Ella Evans.

Announcements

55th Annual Religious Arts Festival

TODAY | *Week-long event through Feb. 8*

Make plans to attend this year’s festival: *Music is like a bridge that leads us to God.* This afternoon features an IPC Choir Evensong at 4:00 in the Sanctuary, and join us later this week for a Lecture on Calvin and the Psalter, an Alpine Banquet, Baroque music with period instruments, and a Retrospective on Benjamin Britten. Visit ipcmusic.org for more information. **The reservation deadline is today for the annual banquet on February 5.**

Lenten Grace Group Registration

Register by Feb. 15

Grow in faith and fellowship this spring by joining a Grace Group at IPC. Groups will meet February 15-March 28 to study

Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton. Each small group is led by IPC members and meets at different times and locations, so you can find a group that works for you. Sign up at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Beer & Hymns

Monday, Feb. 16 | 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. All are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 18 | Noon & 6:00 p.m.

Join us for IPC’s Ash Wednesday services in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and communion. Childcare is available for the 6:00 p.m. service.

Welcome to IPC

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

Special Gifts Received

Children's Fresh Air Farm: In memory of Ms. Patton Martin Devitt.

Community Ministries: In memory of Bob Schleusner.

Kirkwood Funds: (*Horizon Fund*)
In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds and Mrs. Mary E. Kelley.

Food Pantry: In memory of Don & Virginia McCormick and Janet Waller.

Prayer List

Copies of IPC's current prayer list are available in the Parlor and Narthex. 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.

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).

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
4:00 P.M. Choral Evensong, Sanctuary
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall
6:00 P.M. Youth Group, Highland Hall Garage

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
- Youth Sunday School & Confirmation Class, Highland Hall
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floor
- Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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
6:30 P.M. Lecture: The Genesis and Genius of the Genevan, Great Hall
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel

12:00 P.M. Tapestries, RM 217
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 304
5:30 P.M. Session, Garage

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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
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 Midweek, 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
6:15 P.M. IPC Camerata & Choir Rehearsals, Music Suite

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Noon Bible Study, RM 307
2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
6:00 P.M. Religious Arts Festival Banquet: A Swiss Celebration, Great Hall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
12:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
7:00 P.M. Early Music Concert, Great Hall

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Gaige Tittle, *Seminary Intern*

Acolyte:

(8:45 a.m.) Charlotte Chambliss, Russell Chambliss

(11:00 a.m.) Kate Austin, Katelyn Long, AC Monk

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Willian Pereira da Silva, *baritone*



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