Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 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* 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.

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

Speak Thy word to me, O God, but speak it slowly and sheathe it in tenderness. I long to know but I am afraid. I long to look into my heart with Thine eyes, but who can say that I would care to live on? Lead me gently step by step, O Shepherd of the sheep. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE *"Savior of the Nations, Come"* 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 *"Savior of the Nations, Come"* NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Miss Katie Woodruff & Miss Kris Lindley

❖ **HYMN 348** *"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"* HELMSLEY

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION **Rev. Newton**

O God, we praise you this Advent for sending your light into this world.
We confess that we live as though
the light had never defeated darkness.
We live in sin, as though there were no justice.
We live in fear, as though there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord.
Encourage us not to be afraid.
Inspire us to lean into hope,
and to find there strength for the journey ahead.
We pray in the name of the coming Christ. 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.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Rev. Seamon**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM **Rev. Seamon**

Helen Elizabeth Hartline

❖ **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.

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:5-15a Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 43

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

ANTHEM

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Revelation 22, adapt. Ruth Manz

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 *"Angels"* **Rev. Seamon**

The Response to the Word

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

❖ **HYMN 107** *"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"* REJOICE, REJOICE

❖ **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** **Rev. Long**

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

"*Zion Hears the Watchman Singing*" J. S. Bach

Zion hears the watchman singing, her heart with joyful hope is springing: She wakes and hurries through the night. Forth He comes her Bridegroom glorious in strength of grace, in truth victorious: Her star is risen, her light grows bright. Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word. Alleluia! We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.

from "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" by Philipp Nicolai, 1599

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 105** *"People, Look East"* BESANÇON

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE** *"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"* Paul Manz

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **Vann Goodner.**

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God
and in honor of **Thomas Julian Skinner IV**, Colonel, upon his graduation with honors
from the United States Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania;
son of Nancy Skinner and the late Julian Skinner.

Today's Baptism

Helen Elizabeth Hartline, born May 25, 2026, daughter of Liz & Parker Hartline, granddaughter of Penney & Roger Hartline and Rebecca & Leonardo Castillo, and great-granddaughter of Sandra & Jerry Parker and Kathryn Hartline.

Announcements

First Sunday of Advent
TODAY | As we begin the Advent season together, we will observe our Holiday Worship schedule with one combined service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School or Table Service today.

"Making Room for the Light:" An Advent Devotional
TODAY | Pick up a printed copy of "Making Room for the Light" by Rev. Nicole Newton in the Parlor this Sunday. With devotions beginning today, Nicole invites us to "Gather the Gifts" of Advent and notice Christ's light in everyday life. You might begin the morning with the day's reading and prayer or use the reflection questions to start a conversation around the dinner table. You can also read the devotional online on the Advent at IPC page at *ipc-usa.org* or listen to Nicole read each day's devotion by searching for "IPC Birmingham" in your favorite podcast app.

Announcements

Wednesday Chapel & Lunch

Wednesdays in Advent | Noon | Chapel

Join us each Wednesday in Advent, beginning Dec. 2, for a noonday Chapel service followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Please register for lunch ($5) by noon on the Tuesday prior at *ipc-usa.org* on the Sign Up Links page.

Advent Workshop & Table Service

Sunday, Dec. 6 | 4:00 p.m. | Great Hall

All ages are invited to join Children's Ministry and the Table to create ornaments for our Christmas tree beginning at 4:00 p.m. At the 5:00 p.m. Table service, we'll explore the meaning of each ornament as we decorate the tree together. Stay afterward for dinner and fellowship! **Reminder:** The Table meets in the Great Hall while Highland Hall undergoes repairs and improvements. Find project updates at *qrco.de/3116updates*.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 6 | 6:00 p.m. | IPC Youth House

Youth in grades 7–12 and friends are invited to celebrate Christmas with dinner, games, and a white elephant gift exchange at our new Youth House (1157 Lakeview Crescent)! Bring a wrapped gift ($15 or less). Learn more and register at *ipc-usa.org* on the Sign Up Links page.

Angel Tree

Return Angels by Tuesday, Dec. 8

Thank you for helping us spread Christmas cheer for the students at the Children's Fresh Air Farm. All gifts are due by Tuesday, Dec. 8. For questions about the Angel Tree or other ways to support our students, contact Marion Dukes at *mdukes@ipc-usa.org*.

Advent Flowers

Deadline to contribute: Monday, Dec. 7

Honor or remember loved ones by making an Advent flower donation, which provides flowers and greenery throughout the church during the Advent and Christmas season. Envelopes are available at the receptionist desk, or find the online giving form at *ipc-usa.org* on the Sign Up Links page. Names of loved ones will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

IPC Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 13 | 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Accompanied by harp and oboe, the IPC Choir will perform a varied program that will include two works by American composer Stephen Paulus: *Jesu Carols* and *Three Nativity Carols*. Favorite anthems of the choir from the 16th-20th centuries will round out the program. Soloist Janet Ort will be featured in this magical evening of musical settings by poets young and old.

This Week at IPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. Combined Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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, DECEMBER 1

9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
NOON Tapestries, RM 217
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 303
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 301

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 A.M. Yoga, RM 301
10:30 A.M. Women at the Well, RM 101
10:30 A.M. Zoom Bible Study
10:30 A.M. Caregiver Support Group, RM 304
NOON Advent Chapel & Lunch, Chapel & Great Hall
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
5:30 P.M. KidsROCK, 1st Floor
5:30 P.M. Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

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, GH2
4:00 P.M. Advent Workshop, Great Hall
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, **New! Great Hall**
6:00 P.M. Youth Christmas Party, Youth House

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

Annual Pledge

Together as one, we worship, grow in faith, care for one another, and serve our neighbors near and far. Your 2027 pledge helps sustain these ministries and the mission we support.

Find pledge cards at the reception desk and in the Parlor, or text PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and follow the prompts.

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*.

Special Gifts

Music & Fine Arts: In memory of Matthew Ferriter.

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 10:00 a.m. livestream at *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 SERVICE:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*
The Rev. David J. Seamon, *Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach*
The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, *Associate Pastor, Discipleship*
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*

Acolyte: Andrew Grover

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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