

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. | ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

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, you are invited to join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. We look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church.

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. Children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for childcare at the time noted in the service.

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

Ah, but my Father, Thou hast a way out. Thou breakest the bonds asunder. Thou deliverest the captive. Thou hast decreed freedom for every soul. Help me to desire it more than all sweetness, more than life itself. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

arr. Herbert Sumsion

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

"Blessed be his glorious name for ever"

George Thalben-Ball

Blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 95

Rev. Clayton

Minister: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Minister: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

People: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

❖ HYMN 386

"Come, Worship God"

O QUANTA QUALIA

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

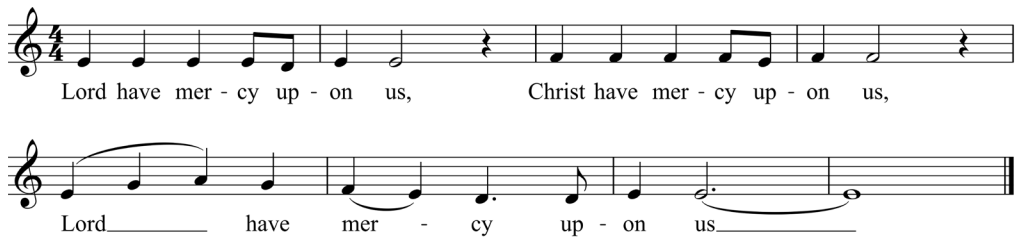
O God, by your mercy strengthen those who are exposed to the rough storms of trouble and temptation. Help us stand against our own negligence and cowardice. Defend us against the treachery of our unfaithful hearts, and forgive us our sins. Help us, we implore you. Bring us safe to your haven of peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

St. Augustine

A period of silence for personal confession.

❖ KYRIE ELEISON

from The Independent Service by Dr. Jeff McLelland



❖ 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

from The Independent Service

The musical score for Gloria Patri is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/2 time signature. 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

The Word

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

❖ HYMN 686

“God of Our Life”

SANDON

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Mark Labberton

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Daniel 3:1-18

Pew Bible, O.T. pg. 631

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Discerning the Dangers”

Dr. Mark Labberton

❖ *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 LITANY OF SAINTS

A period of silence.

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Seamon

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.

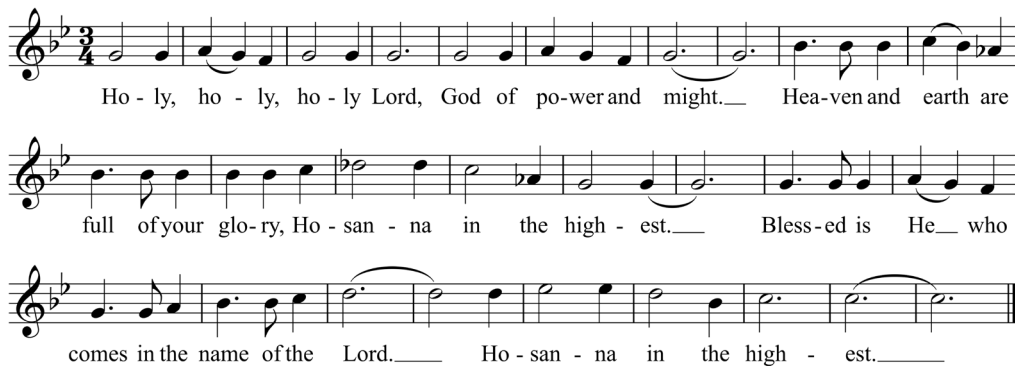
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

from The Independent Service

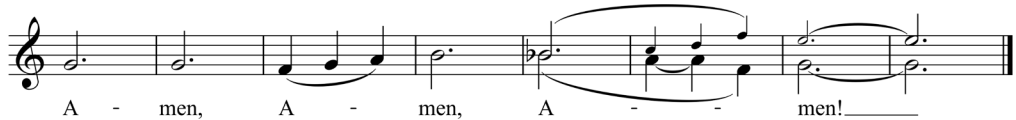
The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:



AMEN

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:



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

“In Remembrance”

from Requiem - Eleanor Daley

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there; I do not sleep. I am the thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight-ripened grain, I am the gentle morning rain. And when you wake in the morning's hush, I am the sweet uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not die.

Mary Elizabeth Frye

“When Rooks Fly Homeward”

Arthur Baynon

When rooks fly homeward and shadows fall, when roses fold on the hay-yard wall,
when blind moths flutter by door and tree, then comes the quiet of Christ to me. When
stars look out on the Children’s Path, and grey mists gather on carn and rath, when
night is one with the brooding sea, then comes the quiet of Christ to me.

Joseph Campbell

.....

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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The Sending

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

.....

❖ **HYMN 326**

“For All the Saints”

SINE NOMINE

.....

❖ **BENEDICTION**

.....

❖ **POSTLUDE**

“Sine Nomine”

Richard Proulx

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Hershel Johnson**, Navy Signalman on the Enterprise in WWII; father of Phillip A. Johnson, Sr., grandfather of Alicia Johnson Coomes and Phillip A. Johnson, Jr.

Announcements

Focus on Faith Sunday

TODAY

We welcome Dr. Mark Labberton, former President and Professor of Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary and author of several books. Dr. Labberton will preach in both morning worship services and lead a Sunday School class at 10:00 a.m. Following the 11:00 a.m. service, all are invited to a reception in the Parlor. His sermon will be replayed at the 5:00 p.m. Table worship service.

Extended Atrium

TODAY

Children in first through sixth grade will have extra exploration time in the Atrium this morning before joining their parents for communion during the 11 am worship service. Catechists will bring the children into the service at the Doxology and help to quietly find families during the offertory anthem. Parents, please sit on

the pulpit/parlor side of the Sanctuary along the outside aisle, if possible.

November Organ Recital Series

TODAY 4:00 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

The 61st Annual November Organ Recital Series begins this afternoon with a recital by Renée Anne Louprette, Bard College, New York. The series continues with free concerts each Sunday in November. These programs are a gift to the community. Learn more at ipcmusic.org.

STAIR 25th Anniversary Celebration

TODAY 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. | *Avondale Park*

Join us in celebrating 25 years of STAIR of Birmingham, a valued IPC partner helping young readers grow in confidence and skill. This free community event will feature literacy activities, crafts, and storytimes hosted by local partners including the Avondale Public Library, i3

Announcements

Academy, and The Literacy Council of Central Alabama. Enjoy delicious food from Fat Charles BBQ and music by STAIR Board President and local DJ Christin French. Come be part of this joyful celebration of reading, community, and connection.

Fall Grief Support Group: Living After Loss

Wednesday Afternoons | 3:00 p.m. | Room 304

IPC's Congregational Care Department invites you to 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.

The group starts Nov. 5 and will be facilitated by Dr. Stewart Jackson, licensed counselor, with participation from Rev. Susan Clayton. This ministry is open to IPC members and friends from the wider community. If you or someone you know could benefit, we encourage you to join us. Questions: Contact Rev. Clayton at (205) 933-3706.

IPC Connect Fall Cocktail Social

Thursday Nov. 6 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Home of Merrill Stewart

Join us for a lovely fall evening with IPC Connect friends. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and good company as we gather in fellowship and friendship. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page by Monday, Nov. 3.

Elementary Fall Retreat

Nov. 7–9 | Living River Retreat Center | K–6th Grade

All elementary-age children are invited to our Fall Retreat at Living River—a weekend to unplug, explore nature, and grow in faith and friendship. Whether it's your child's first retreat or they're a seasoned camper, they'll enjoy classic camp fun like bracelet-making, gaga ball, fishing, and more. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Volunteer Opportunity: CFAF Friendsgiving

Saturday, Nov. 15 | Noon–4:00 p.m. | Children's Fresh Air Farm

Volunteers are needed for a camp reunion with our CFAF high school students as we celebrate Friendsgiving together. The afternoon will include a Thanksgiving-style meal, games, crafts, and time to connect with students about future CFAF programs. Sign up at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page to support this meaningful time of fellowship and gratitude.

Annual Pledge: Joyful Generosity

Join us in joyful generosity as we share our gifts to bless others. Your annual pledge provides the foundation for ministry, mission, and growth. Find 2026 pledge cards at the reception desk and in the Parlor, or make your pledge online by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

Harvest for Hunger

Sunday, Oct. 19–Sunday, Nov. 23

Harvest for Hunger is IPC's annual campaign to fill every available shelf in the Food Pantry with food and hygiene items. You can pick up a Harvest for Hunger grocery bag in the Parlor. The list

of needed items will be printed on the bag and available at ipc-usa.org. Please return filled bags by Sunday, Nov. 23, Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day.

Christmas Citrus Fruit Orders

Now through Nov. 30

Support the IPC Choir by purchasing fresh Christmas citrus fruit. Order forms are available around the church and from any choir member. You may also order online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Confirmation: IPC Class of 2026

Registration is open

Registration is now open for 9th–10th graders for classes beginning in January 2026 and kicking off with a retreat Jan. 10–11. Confirmation is an important milestone in our youth's faith journey, a time to explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ and to begin claiming faith as their own. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page. To learn more, contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@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.

Special Gifts Received

Kirkwood Funds: (*Horizon Fund*) In memory Mr. William F. Edmonds and Mrs. Lynn B. Landers.

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.

2026 Pledge:

Make your annual pledge online by
texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and
following 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 at
YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- Focus on Faith Sunday School, Sanctuary
- Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From (Bridges & Crossroads), Garage
- Youth Sunday School (7th-12th Grade), RM 101
- Extended Atrium: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
- Nursery (6 weeks-18 months), RM G05

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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, NOVEMBER 4

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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
3:00 P.M. Fall Grief 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 305/306
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. Kids ROCK, Ground & 1st Floors
6:00 P.M. Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Noon Bible Study with Rev. Clayton, RM 307
6:00 P.M. IPC Connect Fall Social, Home of Merrill Stewart

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
2:00 P.M. Memorial Service for Pat Pelham, Sanctuary
NOV. 7-9 Elementary Fall Retreat, Living River

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

TBD IPC Hiking Group

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

In Memoriam



“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

Revelation 14:13

Judith Sherrod Chenoweth	11/12/24	Henry Brodnax “Hal” Hamilton	3/19/25
Ellen Patterson “Pinkie” Ashley	11/16/24	Rita Ingalls Spencer	3/21/25
John Martin Klyce	12/14/24	Rita Norburn Townsend	3/24/25
Frank Michael Lee	1/2/25	Donald Gregory Jeane	3/27/25
Jo Ann Whorton Royal	1/2/25	Elizabeth Bryan “Betty” Drennen	4/9/25
Richard Muse “Dick” Womack	1/14/25	Robert Adam “Bob” Schleusner, Jr.	5/18/25
William Frank “Bill” Swoger	1/18/25	Joan Rieder Hinkle	6/3/25
James Frederick “Fred” Powell	1/19/25	Sarah “Sally” Challis Wall	6/18/25
Mary Tom Fain Stubbs	1/22/25	Mary Jo Mummert Hembree	6/21/25
Minelle Thomason McNair	1/27/25	Patricia Senn Heath Pelham	8/1/25
Janet Biddy May	2/6/25	George Ernest “Bud” Keller III	8/23/25
Joy Turner Rue	2/17/25	George Wheeler “Buzzy” Matthews, Jr.	8/29/25
John Michael Lyons	2/18/25	Peggy Ann Gafford Balliet	9/7/25
Deborah Hagood McCorquodale	2/21/25	Winfield Maxwell Baird, Jr.	9/10/25
Betty Jo Kight Cowin	2/24/25	Teresa Tanner Pulliam	9/12/25
Myrl Baxter Kirstein	2/25/25	Jack Jordan Hall, Sr.	9/28/25
James Donald Thornburgh	3/4/25	Edward Collins Miller	10/23/25
McKenzie Kirk Brannon	3/17/25		

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

Dr. Mark Labberton, *former President and Professor of Preaching
at Fuller Theological Seminary*

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

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

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

Acolytes:

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

(11:00 a.m.) Caroline Hill, Helen Ray, Shep Ray

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