

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 17, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

In my extremity, O God, I come to Thee. At the last I turn again home.
Everything else fails, Thou standest sure, yesterday, today and forever.
from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Sarabande"Craig Phillips
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 quiet, 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 Rev. Seamon
Minister: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
People: Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.
Minister: Say to God how awesome are your deeds!
People: All the earth worships you; they sing praises to your name.
Minister: Come and see what God has done; he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
People: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard. *Psalm 66*

*HYMN 299 - "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim".... HANOVER

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Eternal God, you make all things new and forgive old wrongs we cannot forget. We confess that we have walked too far and for too long down the wrong paths. Forgive our past, we pray. Do not let evil cripple or shame us. Lead us into your future, free from sin, free to love and serve your Son, our Savior. In his name we pray. Amen. *St. Augustine*

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 (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

MOMENT FOR MISSION: STAIR.....Karen Griner, CEO of STAIR

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Mark 1:1-15 (Pew Bible, p. NT34-35)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

ANTHEM - "Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee"Johannes Brahms

Let nothing ever grieve thee, distress thee, nor fret thee; heed God's good will, my soul, be still, compose thee. Why brood all day in sorrow? Tomorrow will bring thee God's help benign and grace sublime in mercy. Be true in all endeavor and ever ply bravely; what God decrees brings joy and peace, He'll stay thee. Amen.

Paul Flemming, trans. Walter E. Buszin

SECOND LESSON - Acts 2:29-42 (Pew Bible, p. NT120)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - MAKE A U-TURN Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 475 - "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

* APOSTLES' CREED Rev. Clayton

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

* The Offertory Statement

* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....
OLD HUNDREDTH

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – "Thou Wilt Keep Him" Samuel Wesley
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. The darkness is no darkness with Thee, but the night is as clear as the day. The darkness and the light to Thee are both alike. God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. O let my soul live, and it shall praise Thee, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for evermore. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. *Isaiah 26:3*

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

*HYMN 649 - "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"
AMAZING GRACE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - "Fugue in E Minor" Johann Sebastian Bach

*Congregation standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! Please join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor immediately following the service where we can tell you more about our church. We look forward to meeting you! For more information, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the church today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Swift Northen III. **THE ROSE** in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth on September 7, 2023, of Madelyn Blair Hess ("Maddie"); daughter of Carolyn and Joshua Hess, sister of Lenny Hess. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul A. Ingalls, Master Sgt., WWII Army Air Corps, post-war U.S. Air Force; father of Rita Spencer; grandfather of Tom, Cliff, and Margaret Spencer.

THE GLOBAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION is today at 12:15 pm in the Great Hall immediately following 11 am worship. Learn about IPC's 2023 Mission Journeys, plans for 2024, and the many ways IPC extends the love and grace of Jesus Christ with mission partners around the world. If you didn't sign up for lunch, you can still come and enjoy the presentation.

REGISTRATION FOR GRACE GROUPS opens today. Grace Groups offer a small-group Bible study for members and friends of IPC for six weeks twice a year. Starting October 8, we will study *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce M. Metzger and revised by David A. DeSilva. Each group decides on a day/time/location that best suits the group members. Register online at ipc-usa.org/connect, and pick up a copy of the book at Thank You Books (5502 Crestwood Blvd). Contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org for questions.

BEER AND HYMNS: Come to Iron City Grill (2208 6th Ave S) tomorrow on Monday, September 18, for some old-timey hymns. Doors open at 6 pm. Music starts at 7 pm. Limited dinner menu available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING: This training is mandatory for all IPC Youth and IPC Kids volunteers. There are two more sessions to choose from on Sunday, September 24, at 10 am and 12 pm. You need to attend only one session. Sign up through the link in the Thursday eUpdate or the IPC Kids eUpdate.

CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING of the Congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, September 24, 2023, to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The business meeting will begin immediately following the worship service. The purposes of the meeting are: 1) To elect Elders for the class of 2026; 2) To elect Deacons for the class of 2026; 3) To elect a Youth Elder and a Youth Deacon to serve one-year terms, beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025; 4) To elect a President and Vice President of the Congregation; 5) To elect members of the IPC Foundation Board of Directors for the class of 2026; and 6) To elect members of the Representative Nominating Committee for the class of 2026. No other business may be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session, Kevin J. Long, Moderator, and Beverley T. Krannich, Clerk.

VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: We are helping the Presbytery build a home in Pleasant Grove. IPC volunteer days are September 22 and 30; October 21; and November 3 and 11. No construction experience necessary. Minimum age 14 years old. You must register on the Habitat website (access code **presby23**). Help is also needed to provide a dozen simple sack lunches for the volunteers each day. Find the Habitat link or sign up for lunches at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at (205) 933-3709 or mpatrick@ipc-usa.org.

POVERTY AND BARRIERS TO PROSPERITY: This 3-part series sponsored by Community Ministries continues on Wednesday, September 27, at 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1. Manisha Mishra of Alabama Possible will lead us in a discussion of their recent Barriers to Prosperity: Data Sheet 2023. Michelle Farley, Executive Director of One Roof, will conclude the series on Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1. She will lead a more focused discussion on efforts to equip and empower our community to prevent and end homelessness through advocacy, education, and coordination of services. Both of these events offer the IPC Wednesday Night Dinner option (\$10 per adult plated meal). Order dinner at ipc-usa.org/connect no later than Tuesday at noon of each week.

SAVE THE DATE for our family-friendly Crop Drop in the IPC parking lot on Sunday, October 15, to kick off our annual Harvest for Hunger campaign. Ages 5 and up are invited to help sack potatoes for our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity. For information, contact Sarah Scruggs at sscruggs@ipc-usa.org.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mr. Maurice "Wayne" Goodwin, Mrs. Norma E. Rice, Mrs. Martha H. Shelton, Mrs. Eloise T. Stygler, Mrs. Janet D. Tillery, and Mrs. Virginia C. Wallace. (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: STAIR

STAIR (Start The Adventure In Reading) is looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one reading tutoring to 1st and 2nd grade students at 12 Birmingham schools. Reading on grade level by the third grade is the single greatest predictor of high school graduation and career success. In just 1-2 hours a week, you could change a child's life. Visit stairbirmingham.org to apply.

IPC STAIR Tutors

Beth Adams

Lisa Burton

Jeff Byrne

Susan Byrne

Doc Feagin

Susan Haskell

Joann (Connie) Long

Melissa Robinett

Jean Shanks

Margaret Shepherd

Lochrane Coleman Smith

Ivy Spencer

Tom Spencer

Lee Walthall

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation

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

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45) Braylon James Cooley, Laden Margaret Falls,
Andrew William Grover

Independent Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

ipc-usa.org