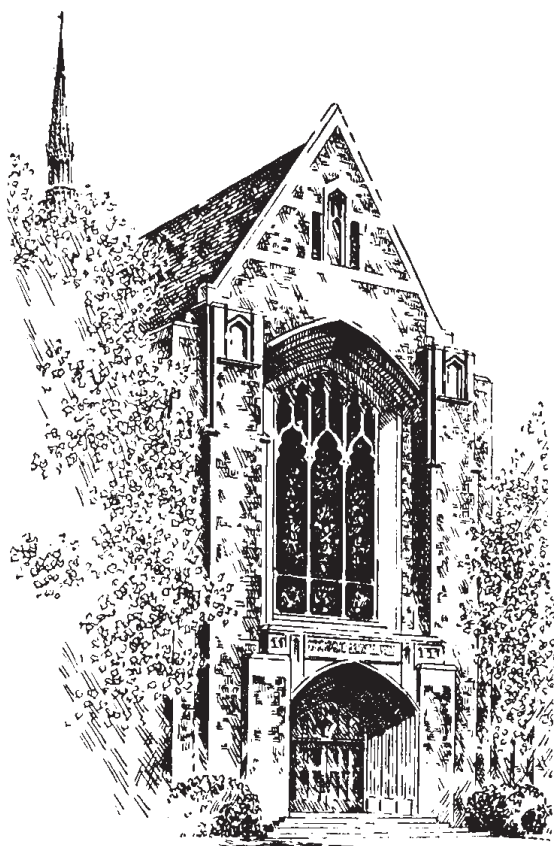


# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Congregational Meeting

September 24, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

**Service for the Lord's Day**

**The Gathering for Worship**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Teach me, O Lord, that only the best is good enough to be true; that truth is not only stranger than fiction but sweeter and finer and richer and higher. Convince me that the glories we dream and sing of here are only vague reflections that have stolen out of the City gates. May I dare to hope everything.

*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

**PRELUDE - "Fanfare"** .....John Cook  
*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 - "O praise God in his holiness"** .....George Thalben-Ball  
O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** .....Rev. Clayton

Minister: God the Father, who has created us:  
**People: We come to offer you our praise and thanksgiving.**

Minister: God the Son, who has died for us:  
**People: We surrender to you our dreams, our talents, our very lives.**

Minister: God the Spirit, who dwells within us:  
**People: Come and fill us with your grace.**

Minister: Let us worship the Triune God!

**\* HYMN 12 - "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"** .....ST. DENIO

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Unison: O God, forgive my fallen countenance and my soul grown dreary, as if I did not live in the mystery of thy salvation. Thou hast given so much to me, give one thing more – a grateful heart; not thankful when it pleases me, as if thy blessing had spare days, but such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise. Amen.**

*George Herbert (d. 1633)*

*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

INVITATION TO GRACE GROUPS..... Mike Graham

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00) ..... Rev. Seamon

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 67 (Pew Bible, p. OT529)

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 - "O sing unto the Lord" ..... Hans Leo Hassler

O sing unto the Lord, sing Him a new song; O sing unto the Lord, all the earth; O sing unto the Lord, blessing His holy name. Declare His glory in ev'ry nation, show forth His salvation from day to day; Declare His glory to the nations, and to all people; Declare to all people now His marvelous glory; Show His marvelous glory.

*Psalm 96:1, 2, 3*

SECOND LESSON - Acts 2:41-47 (Pew Bible, p. NT120)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN ..... Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

\* HYMN 707 - "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" .....HALL

\* APOSTLES' CREED .....Rev. Seamon

**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 – "Brother James's Air" ..... arr. Gordon Jacob
- The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want, He makes me down to lie in pastures green, He leadeth me The quiet waters by. My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make Within the Paths of Blessedness, E'en for His own Name's sake. Yea, though I pass thro' shadowed vale, Yet will I fear no ill; For Thou art with me, And Thy Rod and Staff me comfort still. My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes; My head with oil Thou dost anoint, And my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my days Will surely follow me; And in my Father's heart alway My dwelling place shall be.
- Psalm 23 (Scottish Psalter)*

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 269 - "Lead On, O King Eternal!".....LANCASHIRE
- \* BENEDICTION (8:45)
- \* POSTLUDE - "Festive Scherzo" (8:45) ..... Malcolm Archer
- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (11:00)

*\*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](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org).

**THE FLOWERS** in the church today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Ennis Shanks, Jr. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Don Herbert Maring, junior, Captain, U.S. Army; WWII, Pacific Theater; father of Sara Maring Van Os and Lottie Maring Drennen.

**CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING** of the Congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for today to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11am 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.

**REGISTER FOR GRACE GROUPS:** 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. Register online at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://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](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org) for questions.

**JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH** on Tuesday, September 26. We will meet at Seasons 52 (245 Summit Blvd) at 11:30 am. This is a self-pay event, but please register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) so that we will have an accurate headcount. For questions, please contact Cindy Shaw at [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org)

**VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** We are helping the Presbytery build a home in Pleasant Grove. IPC volunteer days are September 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](http://ipc-usa.org/connect). For questions, contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at (205) 933-3709 or [mpatrick@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mpatrick@ipc-usa.org).

**COLUMBARIUM:** The recent expansion includes 256 additional niches with 192 double and 64 single niches. You may purchase a niche for yourself or a loved one. To view availability, visit [ipc-usa.azurewebsites.net](http://ipc-usa.azurewebsites.net) or contact Patricia Harper at [pharper@ipc-usa.org](mailto:pharper@ipc-usa.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

**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. She will be joined by Minister Debra Blaylock, Faith Chapel Christian Center. Both of these events offer the IPC Wednesday Night Dinner option (\$10 per adult plated meal). Order dinner at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect) no later than Tuesday at noon of each week.

**CHORAL EVENSONG:** At 4 pm on Sunday, October 8, we will offer an Evensong featuring the IPC Choir and violinist Daniel Szasz in the sanctuary. With music spanning from 10th-century chant to the year 2020, this is the perfect time to come, be still, and rest in the Heart of God.

**KICK OFF** our annual Harvest for Hunger campaign with a family-friendly Crop Drop in the IPC parking lot on Sunday, October 15. Ages 5 and up are invited to help sack potatoes for our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity. Register at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect). For information, contact Sarah Scruggs at [sscruggs@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sscruggs@ipc-usa.org).

### BAPTISM TODAY

**BENNETT CHARLES BOWMAN**, born April 26, 2023, son of Mrs. Kayla M.H. Bowman and Mr. Jonathan Griffin Bowman; brother of Harrison Miller Bowman; grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Charles Harding, Mr. and Mrs. Charles William Bowman, Jr.

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#### 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) Winslow Sutton Gregg, Olivia Ann Vanlandingham,  
John Bailey Walthall

(11:00) Cooper Austin Falls, Jacob Kent Falls, Laden Margaret Falls

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Independent Presbyterian Church

3100 Highland Avenue

Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

Phone: (205) 933-1830; Fax: (205) 933-1836

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

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

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

## **OFFICER NOMINEES**

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24, 2023, immediately following the 11:00 worship service, the following names will be placed in nomination by the Representative Nominating Committee.

### **Session Nominees (Class of 2026)**

Carl Albright III  
Anna Hartzog  
Andrew Hicks  
Steve Hunt  
Clarence James II  
Kate Mather  
Georgia Miller  
Jay Turner

### **Deacon Nominees (Class of 2026)**

Boone Abbott  
Jonathan Ashworth  
Jane Cooper  
Kelly Falls  
Trey Hill  
Tammy Johnson  
Sissy King  
Koko McCall  
Don Myers  
Chip Neal  
Amy Noden  
Cliff Spencer III

### **Youth Elder**

Spencer Cobbs

### **Youth Deacon**

Andrew Murphree

### **The IPC Foundation Board of Directors (Class of 2026)**

John Martin  
Henry Ray  
Sheri Robinson

### **Representative Nominating Committee (Class of 2026)**

Jan Posey  
Sean Vanlandingham

### **President of the Congregation 2024**

Caryl Privett

### **Vice President of the Congregation 2024 (President Elect)**

Tommy Thomson