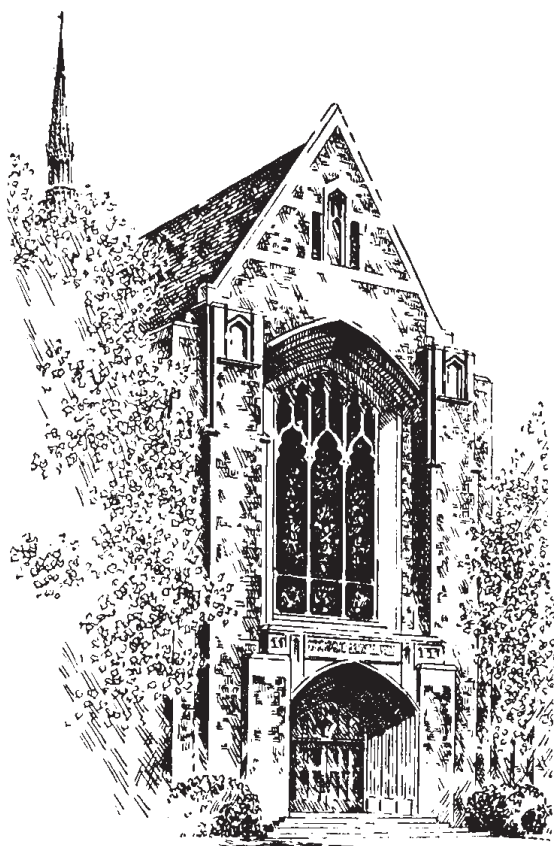


Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 15, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O living Christ, who art Thou? And where? Thou standest between me and God, not hiding Him but showing Him. Through Thee I see His face. In some strange way Thou givest His life to men. For Thou hast His life. Even when I cannot understand I know and partake.

. from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Solemn Melody" H. Walford Davies
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 WORSHIPRev. Clayton

Minister: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets.

People: But in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,

Minister: whom he appointed heir of all things,

All: through whom he also created the worlds.

Minister: He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being,

People: and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Minister: Let us worship the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3

* HYMN 268 - "Crown Him With Many Crowns" DIADEMATA

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: God of all creation, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. In his name we pray. 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 (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

MOMENT FOR MISSION: HARVEST FOR HUNGER..... Leah Pickett

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Colossians 1:13-23 (Pew Bible, p. NT200)

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 - "Lead me, Lord, in Thy righteousness"Samuel Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness, make Thy way plain before my face. For it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8, Psalm 5:8

SECOND LESSON - Acts 4:1-21 (Pew Bible, p. NT121-122)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - NO OTHER NAME..... Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 353 - "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"SOLID ROCK

* APOSTLES' CREEDRev. 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 – "Oh Lord, In Thee Have I Trusted" George Handel
- Oh Lord, in Thee have I trusted. Let me never be confounded.
from the Te Deum Laudamus

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 265 - "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" DUKE STREET
- *BENEDICTION
- *POSTLUDE - Rondeau from *Sinfonies des Fanfares* .. Jean-Joseph Mouret
- *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 Mr. and Mrs. William T. Warren, Jr.. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Donald Martin, U.S. Army, 34 Infantry Division in WWII; killed in action in Italy; recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart; uncle of Genia Brawley.

CROPDROP: Immediately following the 11 am worship service today, please vacate the large parking lot to allow us to set up for the event. Parking for the Crop Drop will be on the street around the church and in the parking lot behind Highland Hall. For questions, contact co-chairs Kate Mather at katemather@gmail.com or Sissy Austin at sissy@sissyaustin.com.

BEER AND HYMNS: Come to Iron City Grill (2208 6th Ave S) tomorrow on Monday, October 16, for some old-timey hymns. Doors open at 6 pm. Music starts at 7 pm. Limited dinner menu available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Our Presbytery Build in Pleasant Grove needs more volunteers! We are now mid-build and need your extra support to complete Karla and Karter Tolbert's lovely house. Join us on October 21, November 3, or November 11. No construction experience necessary, and it is okay to work half-days. Minimum age 14 years old. Register on the Habitat website (access code presby23). The Habitat link is available at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at (205) 933-3709 or mpatrick@ipc-usa.org.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: On Sunday, October 22, 1st - 6th graders will participate in an extended session of Atrium (Levels 2 and 3 only) at 10 am - 12 pm to experience the lessons more in-depth.

SHARE SUNDAY SUPPER with us after the 5 pm service on October 22 and November 19. Following the 5 pm Table worship service, join your IPC family for a casual meal prepared by Kim's Kitchen and to enjoy fellowship. To ensure we have enough meals for everyone, please register (\$10 suggested donation) at ipc-usa.org/connect. Donations can also be made in-person by cash or Venmo on the day of the event. For questions, please contact Lea Anne Hardy at lhardy@ipc-usa.org.

LIVING RIVER is hosting the Fall River Fest on Sunday, October 22, at 8:30 am - 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Participate in the day-long activities including a midday worship service, fellowship, hiking, live music, a closing campfire, and more! Lunch and dinner will be provided, and donations are encouraged. To view the schedule and find out more, visit livingriver.org.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES SERIES: Michelle Farley, Executive Director of One Roof, will conclude the "Poverty and Barriers to Prosperity" series on Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1. Minister Debra Blaylock of Faith Chapel Care Center will join her. Wednesday night dinner (\$10 per adult plated meal) is available; please order by noon on Tuesday, October 24, at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Sarah Scruggs at sscruggs@ipc-usa.org.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME for the Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) Centennial Celebration and annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29, at 3 pm - 6 pm. Enjoy live music by the Table worship band, fun games for kids, a hayride, and a dedication ceremony to celebrate 100 years of ministry at the Farm. Dinner will be served at 5 pm. Register at ipc-usa.org/connect.

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH on Tuesday, October 31, for Halloween fellowship. We will meet at Melt in Lane Parke (1011 Jemison Lane) at 11:30 am. This is a self-pay event, but please register at ipc-usa.org/connect so that we have an accurate headcount. For questions, please contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

JOIN AN IPC MISSION JOURNEY IN 2024! We are organizing five international mission journeys, including three new journeys: Malawi (Feb. 2-9); Dominican Republic (June 15-22); and Nairobi, Kenya (TBD). We also look forward to returning to Chiapas, Mexico (likely late May), as well as Mwandi Mission, Zambia (TBD). Due to airfare coordination, the Malawi journey has a November 1 deadline. If you are interested in Malawi, please email Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at mpatrick@ipc-usa.org immediately. Tommy Thomson will lead the Malawi Journey, and Kennon Walthall will lead the Dominican Republic Journey. More information for all mission journeys will be released shortly!

ELEMENTARY LIVING RIVER RETREAT: Join us Thursday, November 9 - Saturday, November 11, at Living River. This exciting weekend for children K-5th is packed with opportunities to have fun, bond with peers, and deepen your faith. This year's theme is "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God." Sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, please contact Courtney Kraus at ckraus@ipc-usa.org.

IPC CONNECT invites you for a lovely fall evening on Thursday, November 9, 6 pm - 8 pm, at the home of Merrill Stewart. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by Kim's Kitchen along with cocktails as we enjoy the season in fellowship with our IPC friends. Sign up (\$25 per person) at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

KIRKWOOD FUNDS: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Louise Smith.
(*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds.

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

Mr. Gregory Roberson, Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45) Benjamin Russell Polson, John Samuel Meriwether IV,

Andrew Lindstrom Murphree

(11:00) Katherine Evans Austin, Laden Margaret Falls,

Anne Margaret Pringle

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



Sunday, October 15 – November 19, 2023

Harvest for Hunger is IPC's annual effort to fill every available shelf in our Blessing Boxes and Weekend Buddy Bags room with food and hygiene items. How do these efforts impact our community? By year-end, we will have served nearly 3,000 Weekend Buddy Bags at Hayes K-8 School along with more than 1,500 individuals and families through our Blessing Box ministry. Your donations fuel both of these ministries by ensuring there is food on the table for children, parents, and seniors in our city.

At the recent Community Ministries Series, we learned some hard facts from experts at Alabama Possible:

- Nearly 24% of Jefferson County children live in poverty.
- More than 40% of female-headed households with children live in poverty.
- 16.9% of Jefferson County residents struggle below the poverty threshold (\$13,788 annual income for 1 person; \$27,740 for 4 persons).

This information is staggering; it can leave us feeling stuck, wondering how we can possibly make a difference to help turn the tide of poverty and food insecurity. But our faith compels us to dig deeper, to find ways to walk alongside our neighbors, listening to their needs and re-imagining how best to assist and to serve.

Along the way, we made some new discoveries this year which have grown IPC's food ministries' reach well beyond our neighborhood. We now have *FREE Mobile Pop-Up Markets* strategically placed in 4 neighborhoods in west, north and eastern Birmingham. In partnership with East Lake Market/PEER, Inc., we provide healthy fruits and vegetables for more than 600 households each month, including 100 households of Hayes K-8 students. By the end of 2023, we will have provided healthy produce for *more than 7,000 households*. Your donations to our Food Ministries help support these markets, and this fresh food is vital to many community members, especially those who live in food deserts miles away from the nearest grocery store.

Through your food, hygiene and financial donations, and by God's grace, IPC's Food Pantry has met higher demands over the last 3 years. Our food pantry remains the only one in our immediate area stocked completely through donations. We depend on the generosity of our church members and friends to keep the shelves filled. This year, consider how you will help the more than 100,000 children and families who struggle with food insecurity in our area.

What You Can Do!

-Pick up a Harvest for Hunger grocery sack from the Parlor, Highland Hall, or Community Ministries office (ground floor off 31st Street South) today through Sunday, November 12. The food and hygiene items list (our most needed items) is on the sacks and also available on the website.

-Return your filled bags to the parlor or Community Ministries office by Sunday, November 19, Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day.

-Bring items or have them delivered to Community Ministries. Amazon Prime, Walmart, or Instacart are popular delivery services with IPC members. Choose your favorite way to help provide needed items for our Food Pantry and Weekend Buddy Bags.

-Consider sponsoring a food drive at your office or school.

-Establish a new family tradition of giving - 1 bag per month, one item each Sunday per family member, etc.

-Become an IPC Food Pantry Partner to receive weekly email reminders of current needs. (ipc-usa.org/serve/missions/)

-Become a Blessing Boxes volunteer and help us stock shelves and keep the Blessing Boxes filled.

-Recruit your Sunday school class, Grace Group, or small group to provide and serve meals at First Light. (ipc-usa.org/serve/missions/)

-Coordinate your Sunday school class or small group to purchase Weekend Buddy Bag items and/or help sack 320 bags monthly.

-Volunteer with IPC's Meals on Wheels team to deliver meals to seniors. You may also now volunteer in the new Meals on Wheels kitchen next to United Way on 8th Avenue South.

Unfortunately, hunger and food insecurity never take a holiday, and so we get to join hands and hearts and provide for our neighbors, especially during this season of gratitude and holiday family gatherings.

For more information, contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at (205) 933-3709, Sarah Scruggs at (205) 933-3725, or Evelyn Puckett at (205) 933-3726.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.