



Independent
Presbyterian
Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Vol. 76, No. 36

September 3, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

10:00 am

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Holy Communion

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

In Thee, O God, are the only springs sweet enough to drink and deep enough to satisfy. In Thee is all good and in Thee must my soul rest. Give me to seek Thee first and find in Thee all that I would elsewhere seek and fail to find. Amen. *from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Chorale" William Mathias
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 - "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. Long

Minister: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise.

People: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Minister: For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

People: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All: With grateful hearts, let us praise the Lord!

* HYMN 81 - "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" AUSTRIAN HYMN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: God of grace, love, and communion, we confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We ignore your commandments, stray from your way, and follow other gods. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sin and raise us to new life that we may serve you faithfully and give honor to your holy name. 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, believe 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. Clayton

The Word

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

*HYMN 264 - "At the Name of Jesus".....KING'S WESTON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Matthew 16:13-20 (*Pew Bible*, p. NT18)

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

SERMON - PLEDGING ALLEGIANCERev. Clayton

The Response to the Word

* NICENE CREED.....Rev. Long

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

* The Offertory Statement

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – "Be still, for the presence of the Lord".....

David J. Evans, arr. Indra Hughes

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here, Come bow before him now with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground, Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here. Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around, He burns with holy fire: with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light, Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around. Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place, He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace, No work too hard for him: in faith receive from him, Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place. Amen.

David J. Evans

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:
HYMN 562 - "Sanctus".....Franz Schubert

The minister continues in prayer, and then all sing:
HYMN 563 - "Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen".....Franz Schubert

The minister continues in prayer, and then all sing:
HYMN 564 - "Amen".....Franz Schubert

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)
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.

Communion
Today we will receive communion by intinction, one of the traditional ways of participating in the sacrament. It simply involves receiving a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. The congregation will go to the front row by row and approach the chancel area where a minister and an elder will have the bread and the cup for you. After taking communion, you may return to your seat by the side aisles.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION
"Ave Verum Corpus".....W. A. Mozart
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie, O Jesu, fili Mariae. Miserere nobis. Amen.
Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed: Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death! O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on us. Amen.
14th-century chant attributed to Pope Innocent VI

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

- *HYMN 726 - "Will You Come and Follow Me"KELVINGROVE
- *BENEDICTIONRev. Clayton
- *POSTLUDE - "Allegro Maestoso"Dioniglo Canestrari
- *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 on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of all who served in World War II including Lt. Col. John Lightner Feagin, U.S. Army; Major Arthur Henry Feagin, Jr., U.S. Army; Major Joel Daniel Feagin, U.S. Army; Captain Isaac Ball Feagin, Jr., U.S. Army; and Lieutenant junior grade Samuel Ball Feagin, U.S. Navy; family members of John Feagin. September 2 marked the 78th anniversary of the official end of World War II in 1945 when U.S. General Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

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 11 a.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
- 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.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE: There is one morning worship service today in the sanctuary at 10 am with Holy Communion by intinction. Sunday school classes will not meet, and there will be no 5pm The Table worship service. The church buildings will be closed tomorrow on Monday, September 4, in observation of the holiday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT IPC: Discover many ways to connect with your Family of Faith at IPC on Wednesday nights this fall. Join Kids Rock (2 years - 6th grade) any Wednesday. Wednesday Night Supper and Youth First Wednesday Fellowship begin This Wednesday, September 6, and Bible Study with the Pastor resumes Wednesday, September 13. To register for programming (where applicable), sign up for supper, and see the full schedule, click the banner in this past Thursday's eUpdate.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: All Adult Sunday School classes meet at 10 am. To find the class for you, pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table in the Parlor or click on the link in this past Thursday's eUpdate to visit our webpage with all the details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

THIS WEEK we celebrated 20 years with Kim Martin, our Food Services Director. We appreciate the dedication of her and her staff to provide nourishment for our bodies as we nourish our hearts, minds, and spirits.

CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING: This training is mandatory for all IPC Youth and IPC Kids volunteers. There are three sessions to choose from: Tuesday, September 12, at 5:30 pm; and 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. Thank you for helping us keep our youngest members safe.

DINNERS FOR 8: Couples, singles, and members of all ages are invited to participate in these twice-yearly dinners at members' homes and restaurants. The first dinner will be in the fall (October or November 2023) and the second in the spring (February or March 2024). Sign up by September 10. To join or to find out more, contact Fairy Sutherland at (205) 541-3714 or fairysutherland@gmail.com.

LIVING AFTER LOSS: The grief group begins a new 6-week session starting Wednesday, September 13, through Wednesday, October 18, in Room 304. Dr. Stewart Jackson, a licensed counselor, will facilitate the group with Rev. Susan Clayton participating. We welcome all participants, both new and previous. The group is open to IPC members as well as friends from the wider community. Register at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Rev. Susan Clayton at (205) 933-3706 or sclayton@ipc-usa.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: We are helping the Presbytery build a home in Pleasant Grove. IPC volunteer days are September 14, 16, 22, and 30; October 21 and 29; and November 3 and 11. No construction experience necessary. Minimum age 14 years old. You must register on the Habitat website (access code **presby23**). If you're hopeless with a hammer but you'd still like to help, sign up to provide a dozen simple sack lunches for volunteers. Drop off the lunches at the worksite by noon. 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.

Participants in Today's Services

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

Kevin J. Long, Pastor

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

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolyte: 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)

www.ipc-usa.org