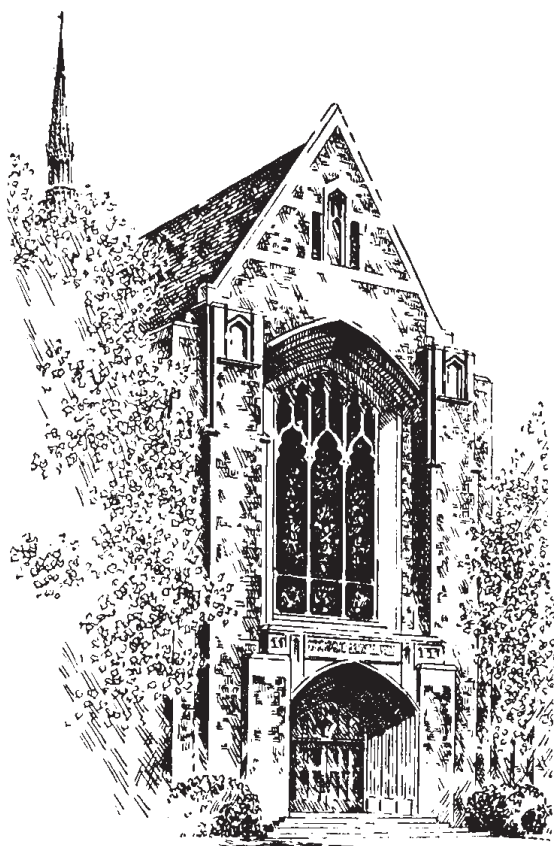


# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 16, 2023

10:00 am

**Service for the Lord's Day**

**The Gathering for Worship**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

O God, grant that going forth with seed for sowing, we may come again with joy, bringing our sheaves with us. Save us from the folly of withholding in the time of planting. O great Husbandman, lest in the day of harvest we be ashamed and in want.

*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

**PRELUDE** - "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" ....arr. Donald Busarow  
*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.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** ..... Rev. Self Patrick

Minister: God's word is a lamp to our feet  
**People: and a light to our path.**  
Minister: God's decrees are our foundation forever.  
**People: They are the joy of our heart.**  
Minister: So let us worship God with gratitude in our hearts and joy on our faces!  
*Psalm 119*

**\* HYMN 32 - "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ..... ELLACOMBE**

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Unison: Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. 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. Seamon

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Jones Valley Teaching Farm .....  
Amanda Storey, Executive Director

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 55:10–13 (Pew Bible, p. OT686)

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 - “Lift thine eyes to the mountains” from *Elijah*.....  
Felix Mendelssohn

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy Keeper will never slumber. *Psalms 121:1-3*

SECOND LESSON - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (Pew Bible, p. NT13-14)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - SOW WHAT .....Rev. Seamon

The Response to the Word

\* HYMN 714 - "God of the Fertile Fields" .....ITALIAN HYMN

\* 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 – "For the Beauty of the Earth" ..... John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine To our life so freely given, Graces human and divine, Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise. *F.S. Pierpoint*

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 611 - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ..... HYMN TO JOY
  - \* BENEDICTION
  - \* POSTLUDE - "Trumpet Tune in C Major" .....Michael McCabe
- \*Congregation standing*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME TO IPC!** We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship Services. We invite you to join us at our next IPC WELCOME event to learn more – sign up online at [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) or email Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org). We look forward to meeting you.

**THE FLOWERS** in the church today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Felix Calvin Yarboro. **THE ROSE** in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth on June 22, 2023, of Sophie Phillips Wheeler; daughter of Sallie and Ryan Wheeler; granddaughter of Laurie and Jeff Grantham. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Arnold Petri Christenson, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force WWII; husband of Alice Christenson.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE AT IPC:** Worship with us each Sunday, May 28 – August 6:

- 9 am: Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School\*
- 10 am: Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5 pm: Table Worship in Highland Hall\*

\*No Sunday School or Table Worship on holiday weekends: September 3.

**ABOUT TODAY'S MOMENT FOR MISSION:** The IPC Foundation has supported the work of Jones Valley Teaching Farm in the Birmingham community since 2008. Their mission statement says, “Food is our foundation; people grow here. We use food as a foundation so that young people can lead, create, and grow a healthy future for themselves and their community. We envision communities inspired by food and transformed by youth. Our strategic goals center youth and advance their educational and professional attainment while also creating more equitable and food-resilient communities.” You can learn more about Jones Valley Teaching Farm and how IPC has helped make a lasting impact on others through the generosity of donors in the 2022 IPC Foundation Annual Report. Copies can be found throughout the church.

**GLEANNING AT PEPPER PLACE MARKET:** Volunteer with us at Pepper Place Farmers' Market this summer in partnership with Society of St. Andrew Gleaning Network to gather leftover produce. At least six volunteers are needed each Saturday from 11 am - 1 pm. The remaining IPC date is July 29. Sign up and find out more at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect). For questions, contact Sarah Scruggs at [sscruggs@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sscruggs@ipc-usa.org).

**BEER AND HYMNS:** Come to Iron City Grill (2208 6th Ave S) tomorrow on Monday, July 17, for some old-timey hymns. Doors open at 6 pm. Music starts at 7 pm. Limited dinner menu available: burgers, wings, fries, and salad.

**JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH** for a great meal and fellowship at Char Bar No. 7 on Tuesday, July 25. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 am. This is a self-pay event, but please register so that we have an accurate headcount. Hope you will join us!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!** IPC will again host the Birmingham Ukrainian Freedom Festival on Saturday, August 19, in Highland Hall, 2 pm - 4 pm. We expect an even bigger crowd this year. Please help us welcome our many new friends and neighbors. Sign up to volunteer at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect).

### Schedule of Volunteer Opportunities

Friday, August 18

- 4:30 - 6:30 pm: help decorate Highland Hall

Saturday, August 19

- 12 pm – 1:30 pm: logistical support and assist Ukrainian friends arriving with food;
- 1:30 pm - 4 pm: greet attendees and serve food:
- 4 pm - 5 pm: clean up

**2023 YOUTH GRANT TEAM:** All IPC rising juniors and seniors are encouraged to participate in the life of the church through the Youth Grant Team (YGT). Spots for the YGT are limited, and students will be selected based on their application & availability (apply by August 1). The YGT is an opportunity for youth to learn more about Christian philanthropy, group decision-making, stewardship, and the IPC Foundation. Visit [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect) to learn more about YGT and how to apply!

## SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

**BOY SCOUTS:** In memory of Robert Hinds ("Bob"), Scoutmaster in the 1980s.

**KIRKWOOD FUNDS:** (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds, Mr. William W. "Bill" Horton, and Mrs. Frances B. Shepherd.

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### Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation  
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed  
The Rev. Melissa Self Patrick, Director of Community Ministries  
Mr. Gregory Roberson, Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir  
Rachel Hancock, Member of the IPC Choir  
Mary Rose Patrick, Member of the IPC Choir  
Leah Pickett, Member of the IPC Choir  
Karen Shadinger, Member of the IPC Choir  
Acolyte: Charlotte Goodner Walthall

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