Service of Choral Evensong

October 25 2026

4:00 pm

The IPC Choir

Dr. Jeff McLelland

Organist and Choirmaster

Rev. Nicole Newton

Officiant

Daniel Szasz

Vioin

Opening Voluntary ..... Josef Rheinberger
(1839-1901)

"Canzone" form *Suite*, op. 166

THE PRECES ..... Joel Martinson
(b.1960)

CANTOR:	O Lord, open thou our lips;
CHOIR:	And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
CANTOR:	O God, make speed to save us.
CHOIR:	O Lord, make haste to help us.
CANTOR:	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
CHOIR:	As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
CANTOR:	Praise ye the Lord;
CHOIR:	The Lord's name be praised.

PHOS HILARON ..... David Ashley White
(1924-2013)

"O Gladsome Light"

O gladsome light, stark, shining from the creator's face . O God, who comes to us in flesh both blessing and blessed. Now, as the sun is setting, and we raise the lights of pray'r, we sing unbounded joy to you, Triune God, who createds, redeems, restores. Single God, who lives as Father, Son, and Spirit, you are all that is worthy to be praised by these happy voices. O God with us, who gave us life, and gives your life for ours, and to be known as God and source, bliss and joy, throughout whatever worlds may be. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Phos Hilaron, paraphr. and transl. Rev. Joseph D. Robinson

PSALM 85:10-13 ..... Ned Rorem
(1923-2022)

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall show loving kindness, and our land shall yield her increase. Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be the pathway of his steps. Mercy and truth are met together. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON ..... Rev. Newton
Psalm 86:8-18

MAGNIFICAT ..... Malcolm Archer
from *The Chichester Service* (b.1952)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him; throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Luke 1:46-55

The people stand for the GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The people sit.

THE SECOND LESSON ..... Rev. Newton
"LXXXV Benedixisti, Domine" from *David's Crown* by Malcolm Guite

NUNC DIMITTIS ..... Malcolm Archer
from *The Chichester Service*

Willian Pereira da Silva, *Baritone*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles. And to be the glory of thy people Israel.

The people stand for the GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end Amen.

Luke 2:29-32

The people sit.

HOMILY ..... Rev. Newton

THE APOSTLES CREED

The people stand.

CANTOR: I BELIEVE in God...
ALL: *(sung monotone)* **...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.**

The people sit.

RESPONSES ..... Joel Martinson

CANTOR: The Lord be with you.
CHOIR: And with thy spirit.
CANTOR: Let us pray.
CHOIR: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.
CANTOR: OUR FATHER...
(the people may chant The Lord's Prayer on the beginning note)

PEOPLE: **...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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

CANTOR: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
CHOIR: And grant us thy salvation.
CANTOR: O Lord, save the State.
CHOIR: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
CANTOR: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
CHOIR: And make thy chosen people joyful.
CANTOR: O Lord, save thy people.
CHOIR: And bless thine inheritance.
CANTOR: Give peace in our time, O Lord.
CHOIR: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
CANTOR: O God, make clean our hearts within us.
CHOIR: And take not they Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECTS ..... Rev. Newton

Almighty God, whose mercy is everlasting and whose compassions fail not: Blot out our transgressions, and restore us to the joy of thy salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who dost freely bestow thy grace upon us through the death and resurrection of thy Son: Deliver us from the power of sin and death, and bring us from darkness into thy marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord God, who dost renew thy people by thy Holy Spirit: Let the mercy we have received become the grace we freely give, that our lives may proclaim thy love and glorify thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ANTHEM

"Te deum laudamus" ..... John Ireland (1879-1962)

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. To thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. The glorious company of the apostles praise thee. The goodly

(continued on next page)

fellowship of the prophets praise thee. The noble army of martyrs praise thee. The holy Churchthroughout all the world doth acknowledge thee: the Father of an infinite majesty; thine honourable, true and only Son; also the Holy Ghost the Comforter. Thou art the King of glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge. We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting. O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever. Day by day we magnify thee; and we worship thy name, ever world without end. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

The Book of Common Prayer

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION ..... Rev. Newton

HYMN 836
"Abide with Me" ..... EVENTIDE

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
"Theme and Variations, Op. 150" ..... Josef Rheinberger

THE IPC CHOIR

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, choirmaster

Soprano

Melanie Cornelius
Rachel Hancock
Leah Hendrix
Kris Lindley
Janet Ort
Lauren Parrish
Kate Waters

Alto

Sara Clemmer
Carter Cooper
Deb Gray
Kelley Feagin
Christine Wells
Lara Wilson
Katie Woodruff

Tenor

Asher Entrekin
Rita Gibbon
Nick Mathes
Kendyl Partridge
Greg Roberson

Bass

Bill Casey
Foster Cook
Chip Cornelius
Lant Davis
Doc Feagin
Andrew Hicks
Jeff Johnson
Xavier Roberson
Willian Pereira de Silva
Richard Stump

ABOUT EVENSONG

A NOTE ABOUT EVENSONG: Evensong is the Service of Evening Prayer sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of the day with gratitude, and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming week. The worship is truly ecumenical, drawing from traditions dating to the Fourth Century.

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)
Silence is a difficult find these days. Many of us are even discomforted by it. Yet, God is most noticeably discovered in silence. We join together in quiet meditation prior to the beginning of the service. In this centering, we listen for God speaking to us from within, a voice all-too-often lost in the complex world about us. In finding our center, we are seeking and finding God.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same my Name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place, incense shall be offered unto my Name, and a pure offering: for my Name shall be great among the heathen. (Malachi 1:11)

The presence of incense is an aid to focus our meditation. It calls our attention to the fact that we are no longer in the outer world, but in a sacred space seeking our inner sacredness. It symbolizes the sacrifice of prayer and self to God. You are invited to use incense in your home to heighten your aural experience in this time of worship.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. (Psalm 96:1-2)

Music helps to focus our meditation. Allow the wash of sound to envelope you, the choir assisting in the meditation of your sense. Join with spiritual focus to the prayers and psalms offered. Join with voice to the Apostles' Creed, the prayers, and the Hymn. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

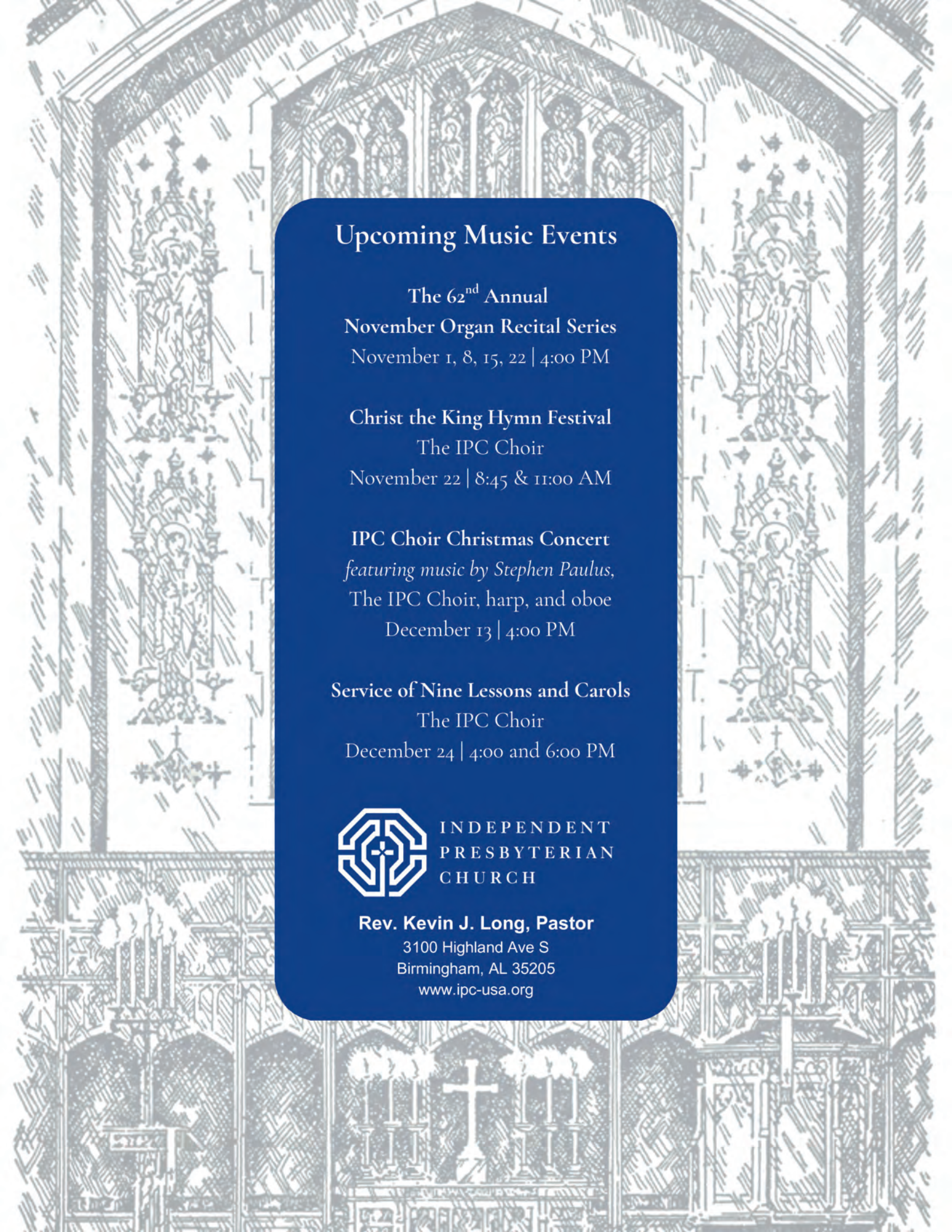
PROGRAM NOTES

The *Te Deum laudamus* is a Latin Christian hymn traditionally ascribed to a date before AD 500, but perhaps with antecedents that place it much earlier. It is sometimes known as the Ambrosian Hymn, although authorship by Saint Ambrose is generally deemed unlikely.

The hymn follows the outline of the Apostles' Creed, mixing a poetic vision of the heavenly liturgy with its declaration of faith. Calling on the name of God immediately, the hymn proceeds to name all those who praise and venerate God, from the hierarchy of heavenly creatures to those Christian faithful already in heaven to the Church spread throughout the world. The hymn then returns to its credal formula, naming Christ and recalling his birth, suffering and death, his resurrection and glorification. At this point the hymn turns to the subjects declaiming the praise, both the universal Church and the singer in particular, asking for mercy on past sins, protection from future sin, and the hoped-for reunification with the elect.

The text has been set to music by thousands of composers over its 1600 years of existence. Today's setting is by the English composer **John Ireland**. Born near Manchester, England in 1879, he began his studies at the age of fourteen at the newly established Royal College of Music in London with Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. His setting of *Te Deum* was composed in 1907 and is very much within the tradition of the music of Stanford. It presents unison passages divided between the voices, an independent, yet supportive organ part, and a general sense of Edwardian solidity. Not only is it a glorious piece to hear, it is fun to sing!

Insert Josef Rheinberger



Upcoming Music Events

The 62nd Annual
November Organ Recital Series
November 1, 8, 15, 22 | 4:00 PM

Christ the King Hymn Festival
The IPC Choir
November 22 | 8:45 & 11:00 AM

IPC Choir Christmas Concert
featuring music by Stephen Paulus,
The IPC Choir, harp, and oboe
December 13 | 4:00 PM

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
The IPC Choir
December 24 | 4:00 and 6:00 PM

INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor
3100 Highland Ave S
Birmingham, AL 35205
www.ipc-usa.org