

# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 20, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

## Service for the Lord's Day

### The Gathering for Worship

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Forgive us, O Lord, that we have doubted Thee. Forgive us that we have wondered if life might not some day, here or hereafter, hang heavy on our hands. May we follow after Thee on tiptoe, with jubilant feet and leaping hearts.  
*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Cantabile" .....César Franck  
*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 - "As many as are led" .....George Thalben-Ball  
As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Rev. Seamon

Minister: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

Minister: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

**People: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

Minister: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

**People: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.**

*Psalms 130*

\*HYMN 386 - "Come, Worship God" ..... O QUANTA QUALIA

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison: Eternal God, you make all things new and forgive old wrongs we cannot forget. We confess that we have walked too far and for too long down the wrong paths. Forgive our past, we pray. Do not let evil cripple or shame us. Lead us into your future, free from sin, free to love and serve your Son, our Savior. 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: BOY SCOUTS ..... Allen Sydnor  
IPC member and previous Troop 28 Scout Master

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:45).....Rev. Clayton

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 103 (Pew Bible, p. OT554)

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 - "Here, O My Lord" ..... Eleanor Daley

Here, O my Lord I see Thee face to face, Here would I touch and handle things unseen, here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace, And all my weariness upon Thee lean. Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with Thee, the royal wine of heav'n, here would I lay aside each earthly load, and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n. This is the hour of banquet and of song, this is the heav'nly table spread for me, here let me feast, and feasting still prolong the brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee. Amen.

SECOND LESSON - Mark 2:13-17 (Pew Bible, p. NT36)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON- WHY, JESUS? (PART 2) ..... Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

\* HYMN 177 - "I Will Come to You" ..... YOU ARE MINE

\* 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 – "Dear Lord and Father" ... C. Hubert H. Parry  
 Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways; Reclothe us in our  
 rightful mind; In purer lives, Thy service find, In deeper rev'rence, praise. In  
 simple trust like theirs who heard, Beside the Syrian sea, The gracious calling  
 of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word, Rise up and follow Thee. Drop  
 Thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease: Take from our souls the  
 strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess The beauty of Thy peace.  
 Breathe thro' the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm; Let sense be  
 dumb, let flesh retire; Speak thro' the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still small  
 voice of calm! *Whittier*

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 724 - "O Jesus, I Have Promised" ..... ANGEL'S STORY
  - \* BENEDICTION
  - \* POSTLUDE - "Quasi Allegro from *L'Organiste*" ..... César Franck
- \*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. and Mrs. Mitchell F. Hall, Jr., and Dr. and Mrs. John N. Lukens. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lt. Thomas Cato Tillar, Sr., of Emporia, Virginia; a naval aviator who on September 12, 1944, by the words of President Roosevelt, "hastened the liberation of the Philippines and the final days of victory"; uncle of Sally Speaker.

**MOMENT FOR MISSION:** Boy Scout Troop 28, one of the oldest ministries of IPC, celebrates its centennial this year. Originally formed by the Men's Club in 1923, our Scouts perform many services for our church ranging from service projects at the Children's Fresh Air Farm to hosting our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Scouts meet Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Scout Hut behind Highland Hall. Contact Troop Leader Kendall Holman at [r.kendall.holman@gmail.com](mailto:r.kendall.holman@gmail.com) for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY:** Members from the Israel trip will share their experiences today at 10 am in Highland Hall. Bridges and Crossroads Classes will meet in the Garage for a 6-week series on prayer.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN** to all 9th and 10th graders for the Confirmation Class of 2024. Confirmation includes preparing individuals who were baptized in infancy to 1) profess their personal faith and the faith of the church and 2) declare their intent to take part actively and responsibly in the church's worship and mission. The program begins Saturday, August 26, at CFAF. To see the full schedule and sign up, visit [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect). For questions, contact Cammie Ashworth at [cashworth@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cashworth@ipc-usa.org).

**SUMMER SUPPER SOIRÉE FOR IPC PARENTS:** Enjoy dinner and a night under the stars at the Clubhouse on Highland with IPC Family Ministries from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm on Wednesday, August 23. Water and soft drinks will be provided by the Parenting Sub-Committee, but feel free to BYOB. Children are invited to attend Kids Rock with IPC Children's Ministries and can stay at the church until the conclusion of the evening. Check out the sign-up form at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) for more info! Register by Monday, August 21. For questions, contact Beth Middleton at [bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org).

**NEW ADULT SERIES:** Join us as Community Ministries launches a 3-Part Series on Poverty and Barriers to Prosperity on Sunday, August 27, at 10 am for the Combined Adult Sunday School in the Great Hall. We welcome Avery Rhodes, Executive Director of Community on the Rise, as she and her WHOLE team share about their focus on breaking barriers to housing, employment, healing, and education.

The Series continues on Wednesday, September 27, at 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1 with Manisha Mishra of Alabama Possible, who will lead us in a discussion of their recent Barriers to Prosperity: Data Sheet 2023. Michelle Farley, Executive Director of One Roof, will round out our series on Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1. They 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. Both of these have the IPC Wednesday Night Dinner option.

**PRAYERS & DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR MAUI, HAWAII:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the Pacific following recent fires that killed at least 99 people in Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui and also burned portions of south Maui and the island's Upcountry region. To make a donation, visit [pma.pcusa.org](http://pma.pcusa.org) or call (800) 872-3282. You can also mail or drop off a check made out to IPC with "Hawaii Relief" in the memo line.

**SAVE THE DATE** for IPC's Global Missions Celebration, September 17, at 12:15 pm in the Great Hall immediately following 11 am worship. Register for lunch (\$10 per adult, \$5 per child) at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect).

## **SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED**

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: In memory of Mr. Vann Goodner, Mrs. Beverly Brown Howell, and Dr. Bill Richardson.

IPC MUSIC & FINE ARTS: In honor of the IPC Choir.

### **BAPTISM TODAY**

**MAGGIE CHRISTINA SORABELLA**, born January 10, 2023, daughter of Mrs. Katie Sorabella and Dr. Robert Sorabella; sister of Madeline Sorabella, Julie Sorabella, Dorothy Sorabella; granddaughter of Janice Sorabella, Elaine and Phil Sorabella, Gesine and John Connolly.

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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) Jessica Francis Long, Macey McMillan Robinson,  
Margaret McClain Robinson

(11:00) Katherine Evans Austin, Laura Elizabeth Donovan,  
Katelyn Noelle Long

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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)*

**ipc-usa.org**