

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Commissioning of Teachers and Leaders in Christian Education

September 25, 2022

eight forty-five o'clock
eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

My Father, send me about working the miracles of love. Give me to love the weak into strength, the timid into confidence, the ugly into beauty. Let me add luster to my own life by losing myself in love. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Choral Prelude on *Horbury*" ("Nearer, My God, to Thee") ...

Alec Rowley

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 Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me" (11:00)

George Thalben-Ball

O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me: whither shall I go then from thy presence?

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Seamon

Minister: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

People: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Minister: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

People: You have turned my mourning into dancing.

Minister: You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

People: O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Psalms 30:4-5, 11-12

* HYMN 267 - "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" MADRID

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Forgive my sins, O Lord. Forgive the sins of my youth and the sins of my age, the sins of my soul and the sins of my body, my secret and whispering sins, my presumptuous and crying sins, the sins I have done to please myself, and the sins I have done to please others. Forgive the sins which I know, and the sins which I know not. Forgive them, Lord. Forgive them all in your great goodness. Through Jesus Christ 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, Crop Drop.....
(eight forty-five) Sissy Austin,
(eleven o'clock) Kate Mather

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *(eleven o'clock)*..... Rev. Seamon

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Revelation 19:5-8 (Pew Bible, p. NT258)

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 - "A Gaelic Blessing" (8:45)John Rutter
Janet Ort, *Soprano*

Deep peace of the running wave to you, Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, Deep peace of the shining stars to you, Deep
peace of the gentle night to you, Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ , the light of the world to you.

Adapted from an old Gaelic rune

"I Saw a Stranger Yestereen" (11:00) William Bradley Roberts

I saw a stranger yestereen. I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking
place, music in the list'ning place. And with the sacred name of the triune God,
He blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her
song, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise. *Ancient Gaelic Rune*

SECOND LESSON - Genesis 27:15-31 (Pew Bible, p. OT26)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - SISTER WIVES..... Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

*HYMN 649 - "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"
AMAZING GRACE

TEACHER AND LEADER RECOGNITION.....Rev. Clayton
Please refer to the insert for the litany for the Commission of Teachers and Leaders.

* 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 – "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (8:45).....
William Bradley Roberts

Janet Ort, *Soprano*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care: in thy pleasant pastures feed us: for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will: do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us: love us still. *Dorothy Ann Thrupp*

"The Road Home" (11:00) Stephen Paulus
Tell me where is the road I can call my own, That I left, that I lost, So long ago? All these years I have wandered, Oh when will I know There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, When the dark is done, As I wake from a dream In the gold of day, Through the air there's a calling From far away, There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, Come away is the call, With love in your heart As the only song; There is no such beauty as where you belong, Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.
Michael Dennis Browne

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..... Rev. Long
- * POSTLUDE - "Trumpet Air en Echo" (8:45) .. Michel-Richard de la Lande
"Prelude on 'Hyfrydol'" (11:00).....Healey Willan
- * *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 or email Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org. We look forward to meeting you.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Ennis Shanks, Jr. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Don Herbert Maring, junior, Captain, U.S. Army; WWII, Pacific Theater; father of Sara Maring Van Os and Lottie Maring Drennen.

A SERVICE OF EVENSONG is today at 4 pm. This restorative afternoon service will feature the music of Healey Willan. Our music director, Dr. Jeff McLelland, will play the closing voluntary.

IPC IS HOSTING A LUNCH with Archbishop Laurent and Chantal Mbanda, our mission partners from Rwanda, on Wednesday, September 28, at 12 pm in the Great Hall dining room (GH1). Everyone is invited to learn more about their transformative ministries and IPC's mission journey there next summer. Please register at ipc-usa.org/connect.

IPC CROP DROP is fast approaching! Volunteers (5+ years) are invited to help us sack 33,000 pounds of sweet potatoes on October 16, 1 pm - 6 pm, in our "big" parking lot. This year's event will be much larger than last year, and we need the most people at the first shift. Register online at www.ipc-usa.org/connect by October 1. For questions, contact co-chairs Kate Mather at katemather@gmail.com or Sissy Austin at sissy@sissyaustin.com.

IPC INVITES the community to attend the Highland Avenue Forum Event “Remembering Those in Prison” on October 1, 9 am - 11 am, in Highland Hall. Five panelists will discuss the challenges that ex-offenders face re-entering society after encounters with the criminal justice system including prison. This event is free to the public.

FIRST LIGHT: Provide and serve dinner for the women and children staying at First Light during October 5-8. Sign up at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Sarah Scruggs at sscruggs@ipc-usa.org or (205) 933-3725.

THE REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is identifying qualified nominees for the Elder and Deacon classes of 2025, the vice president of the congregation (who will become president in 2024), trustees to serve on the IPC Foundation, and two congregants to serve as members at large on the RNC. Forms are available in the narthex and on the table next to the receptionists' desk. You may also complete your form online (www.ipc-usa.org/nominations.html) or e-mail your nominations to RNC@ipc-usa.org. The deadline for nominations to be submitted is October 5.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: The Presbytery Habitat for Humanity Home Build needs your assistance! We are a little low on volunteers. The shifts are 8am-3pm, but you do not have to work the entire shift. Register at hfhgb.volunteermatrix.com (access code presby22). IPC days are Oct. 7, 21, and 29. For questions, contact Bannon Thorpe at thorpeb@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Lift Off to Learning, IPC's social-emotional learning (SEL) and literacy program for 3rd and 4th graders from Hayes K-8 school, begins October 11th. Volunteers are needed weekly on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons from 3:15-4:45 pm. These volunteers work with the same small group of students each week. LIFT OFF includes a time of snack and fellowship followed by small group lesson time. Prior experience is not required. Training and all materials needed are provided. For questions or to sign up to volunteer, contact Catherine Goudreau at cgoudreau@ipc-usa.org.

GRACE GROUPS offer a small-group Bible study for members and friends of IPC for six weeks twice a year. This fall we will study *Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude* by David A. DeSilva starting October 9. Each group decides on a day/time/location that best suits the group members. Register online at ipc-usa.org/connect. Contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org for questions.

WEEKEND BUDDY BAGS: Hayes K-8 School is counting on us to provide 160 snack bags monthly for their students. Will your group help us sponsor October? E-mail Sarah Scruggs at sscruggs@ipc-usa.org to sign up.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM: In memory of Jamey Hollingsworth.

SOCIAL SERVICES: In memory of Sunny Koontz and Nancy Stetler.

BAPTISM TODAY

EMERSON CAMPBELL GOUDREAU ("EMMY"), born June 13, 2022, daughter of Mrs. Catherine and Mr. Nick Goudreau; granddaughter of Mischelle and Scott Goudreau, Cathie and Jeff Bonner.

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

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

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (*eight forty-five*) Oliver Clayton Lyons, Elizabeth Lucile Smith,
Charlotte Goodner Walthall

(*eleven o'clock*) Spencer Anne Cobbs, Calliope Lane Hontzas,
Catherine McNeill Lewis

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

COMMISSION OF TEACHERS AND LEADERS

Minister: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

All: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world.

Minister: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

The grace bestowed on you in Baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. Christian Education teachers and leaders, God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions:

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Teachers: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Minister: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Teachers: I will, with God's help.

Minister: Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

Teachers: I do.

Minister: Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Teachers: I will, with God's help.

Minister: Do we, members of Independent Presbyterian Church, confirm the call of God to our sisters and brothers to labor with us in the service of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Minister: Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

Congregation: We will.