

# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 23, 2025

Annual Congregational Meeting  
Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Series  
Fourth Grade Bible Presentation

8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

# Service for the Lord's Day

## The Gathering for Worship

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, we are tired of the old sickness – give us the new health. We are tired of the old failure – give us the new success. We are tired of the old sin – give us the new holiness. Make us new creatures in Christ Jesus blessed by a new earth, beckoned by a new heaven. Amen.

*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE ..... Josef Rheinberger  
"Two Trios"

*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 ..... George Thalben-Ball  
"The Lord is gracious"

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great goodness. His mercy is over all his works.

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Rev. Clayton

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Lead the humble and teach them your way.

**People: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Leader: For you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

**People: Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep your decrees.**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God! *Psalm 25*

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

### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison: O God, we confess the blindness that is not even aware of sinning; the pride that dares not admit it is wrong; the self that can see nothing but its own will; the self-righteousness that knows no fault, except in others; the callousness that has ceased to care; the defiance that does not regret its own sins; the evasion that constantly makes excuses; the heart that is too hardened to repent. Grant, O Lord, that we may be forgiven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\*THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: 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 (HYMN 581) ..... GREATOR EX

“Glory Be to the Father”

**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, amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Long

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)..... Rev. Seamon  
Connors Wheeler Chase

\*APOSTLES’ CREED (11:00 a.m.)

**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.**

FOURTH GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION (11:00 a.m.) .....

Ashley Lyerly, Children’s Sub-Committee Chair, Beth Middleton,  
Director of Children’s Ministries; and Rev. Nicole Newton

James Brawley  
Hagan Brignac  
Harrison Carroll  
Julian Foote  
Adelaide Harding  
Libba Manuel  
Harper McEwen  
Hill McGowan

Clara Murphy  
Avery Murphy  
Evie Kate Murphy  
Jack Rediker  
Chambers Tackett  
Charles Thorpe  
Oliver Warburton  
Susie Wykle

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ..... Rev. Clayton

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Luke 6:27-38 (Pew Bible, p. NT49)

Leader: 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 childcare.*

ANTHEM.....Charles Villiers Stanford  
“Justorum Animae”

*Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormentum mortis. Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori, illi autem sunt in pace.*

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; but they are in peace.

*Book of Wisdom 3:1-3*

SERMON ..... Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner  
“Things We Wish Jesus Never Said”

### The Response to the Word

\*HYMN 703 ..... ST. CATHERINE  
“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

\*APOSTLES’ CREED (8:45 a.m.)..... Rev. Seamon

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.*

\* The Offertory Statement

\* The Doxology (HYMN 606)..... OLD HUNDREDTH  
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem..... Howard Helvey  
“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go”

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue; Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think, or speak, or do. The task Thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill; In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will. Preserve me from my calling’s snare, And hide my simple heart above, Above the thorns of choking care, The gilded baits of worldly love. Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes mine inmost substance see, And labor on at Thy command, And offer all my works to Thee. Give me to bear Thy easy yoke, And every moment watch and pray, And still to things eternal look, And hasten to Thy glorious day. For Thee delightfully employ Whate’er Thy bounteous grace hath given; And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee to Heaven. *Charles Wesley*

### 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 .....HYMN TO JOY  
“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

\*BENEDICTION (8:45 a.m.)..... Rev. Kershner

\*POSTLUDE.....Johann Rinck  
“Postlude in D Minor”

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (11:00 a.m.)

\**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](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org).

**THE FLOWERS** in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perkins Duggan, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sumner, and Kelly Duggan. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in honor of Hugh Mallory Reeves, Jr., MD, U.S. Army Reserve, Lieutenant Colonel serving stateside in command of 1493rd. Medical Detachment - combat and operational stress control; son of Martha and Mallory Reeves.

**BARBARA NOOJIN WALTHALL BIBLE STUDY SERIES:** IPC welcomes Guest Preacher Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner today during the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship. She will also lead an adult Sunday School class in the Great Hall at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Kershner is the Senior Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. This series is generously supported by the Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Fund, established by the Walthall family and maintained by the IPC Foundation as part of the IPC Focus on Faith Committee.

**OFFERING OF LETTERS:** Put your faith into action by joining IPC’s Bread for the World Team to write letters to our legislators in support of children’s nutrition and food access. Your letter can make a difference to “Nourish Our Future.” Representatives will be in the Parlor this morning to assist our congregation in preparing these letters.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER TICKETS:** Join us on Tuesday, March 4 at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for a long-standing IPC tradition! Show your support for Boy Scout Troop 28. Funds raised go towards Troop 28 activities like overnight camping trips, Scout camp in the summer, and Adventure trips for the older Scouts. **Purchase your ticket this morning; Troop 28 is selling tickets in the Parlor between the worship services.**

**JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH CREW** on Tuesday, February 25 for a great meal and fellowship at Bistro V. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30. This is a self-pay event but please register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page so we will have an accurate head count.

**JOIN US FOR AN IPC CONNECT POP-UP SOCIAL** at Magnolia Point this Thursday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. This new Birmingham restaurant offers a wonderful atmosphere with ample indoor and outdoor seating, as well as an amazing menu. For more information, please reach out to Cindy Shaw at [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

**JOIN A GRACE GROUP** this Lenten Season. From March 2 to April 12, each group will study *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. Grace Group small group studies offer an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. Whether you are new to the church or a longtime member, there is a place for you. Registration is now open in the Parlor and at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) under the Connect tab.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE INSTALLATION SERVICE** of our Associate Pastor of Discipleship, Reverend Nicole Newton, on Sunday, March 2, at 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall.

**SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG** will be offered on Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m. Accompanied by strings, piano and harp, the IPC Camerata will be singing a variety of gorgeous music for a time of prayer, contemplation, and renewal. Please join us for this beautiful service of worship.

**JOIN US ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**, at the Noon or 6:00 pm service in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and communion. Childcare is available for the 6:00 p.m. service.

**JOIN THE IPC GUILD**, a group of 70 women who work together behind the scenes to care for the sanctuary and prepare for worship and sacred services. Pick up a Guild Interest form near the elevator, or find the form and additional information online at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page. Please submit your form by March 28.

## BAPTISM TODAY

**CONNORS WHEELER CHASE**, born December 5, 2024, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Paul Chase, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mell Gage Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lee Chase, and great-granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gene Bradley.

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### Participants in Today's Services

Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Guest Pastor

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

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

The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor, Discipleship

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts

Acolytes: (8:45 a.m.) Layton Meriwether and Sam Meriwether

(11:00 a.m.) Jake Falls, Kate Falls, and Katelyn Long

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

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Independent Presbyterian Church

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Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

Phone: (205) 933-1830; Fax: (205) 933-1836

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

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