

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



NOVEMBER 23, 2025
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

WELCOME TO INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of IPC.
As you prepare yourself for worship,
we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

"The liturgical year is an adventure in bringing the Christian life to fullness, the heart to alert, the soul to focus."

GATHERING

WELCOME & BIDDING PRAYER

David Seamon

One: Let us pray

All: God of majesty, you love us more than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ you reconciled the whole world to you and claim us as your own, so that we may live as Christ's body on earth. We give you thanks for the lives we have been given. We pray in your holy name, great Trinity of Love. Amen.

CREATION

CREED:

David Seamon

**We believe in One God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 104:1-9

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.
You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.
You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.
You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.

ANTHEM: "So Will I (100 Billion X)"

CREED:

Allyson Martin

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth..

HYMN: *"What Child is This?"*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

LENT

CREED:

Ed Thomas

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

HYMN: *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

EASTER & ASCENSION

CREED:

Lisa Strelnikova

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
And his kingdom will have no end.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 20:1-9

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

HYMN: *"In Christ Alone"*

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the power of Christ I stand

PENTECOST

CREED:

Jim Walker

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 2:1-4, 41-43

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

HYMN: *"Spirit of the Living God"*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

THE ETERNAL CHURCH

CREED:

Midge Miller

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Revelation 7:9-10, 13-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

HYMN #610: *"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace

The name of Jesus charms our fears
And bids our sorrows cease
Sings music in the sinner's ears
Brings life, and health, and peace

Christ speaks and listening to his voice
]New life the dead receive
]The mournful waken to rejoice
The poor in heart believe

My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of thy name

To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above
The church in earth and heaven

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

HARVEST FOR HUNGER DEDICATION

Thank you so much to each and every person who generously filled up Harvest for Hunger bags to stock the IPC Food Pantry and Blessing Boxes for our neighbors as well as our Weekend Buddy Bags to support children at Hayes K-8 School. Through your generosity, we are able to show the love and compassion of Christ with members of our community by helping meet their basic needs so that they can grow and thrive. We are so grateful for your support of this incredibly important ministry and hope that you will continue to share with our food ministry throughout the year whenever you are able!

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Nicole Newton

- Invitation to the Table
- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People (by Intinction)
- Music: “O Day of Peace”
- Prayer after Communion

HYMN #82: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

+BENEDICTION

+Rise in Body or Spirit

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS! We would love to welcome you as a new member of our family of faith at IPC. Please indicate your interest by contacting Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org. “Like” us on Facebook at [@IPC_Birmingham](https://www.facebook.com/IPC_Birmingham).

“Light for the Day: Tiny Advent Reflections:” Pick up your copy today before Advent begins. This beautiful collection of reflections, stories, prayers, and artwork by IPC members across generations helps prepare our hearts to journey through the Advent season with hope and expectation. Copies will be passed out after this evening’s services, with additional copies available in the foyer. A digital version is also available on the Advent at IPC webpage.

Annual Pledge Campaign: Join us in joyful generosity as we share our gifts to bless others. Your annual pledge provides the foundation for IPC’s ministry, mission, and growth in 2026. Make your pledge online by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts. We ask all members to submit 2026 pledges by Thanksgiving.

First Sunday of Advent: On Sunday, Nov. 30, we will begin the Advent season with one combined Holiday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School or Table Service on this date. Church offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Christmas Citrus Fruit Orders: Now through Sunday, Nov. 30, you can support the IPC Choir by purchasing fresh Christmas citrus fruit. Order forms are available around the church and from any choir member, and you may also order online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Advent Chapel & Lunch: Beginning Wednesday, Dec. 3, and continuing each Wednesday in Advent, join us at noon in the Chapel for a brief worship service followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Please register for lunch (\$5) by noon on the Tuesday prior at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Children’s Advent Workshop: All children are invited to the Children’s Advent Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Highland Hall. Drop in for a morning of Advent fun with snacks, crafts, fellowship, and more. Christmas pajamas are encouraged. Volunteers are needed; sign up at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

IPC Choir Christmas Concert: On Sunday, Dec. 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, invite friends and family to enjoy the IPC Choir’s annual Christmas Concert, a cherished tradition of the season. Accompanied by 10 members of the Alabama Symphony string section, the program will feature congregational hymns, choral anthems, and orchestral music by composers including Jonathan Dove, Hugo Distler, Ola Gjeilo, and William Bradley Roberts, concluding with the beautiful Ave Maria by Franz Biebl. Soloists will include Janet Ort, Jane Stump, and Willian Perira da Silva.

Advent Flowers: Honor or remember loved ones by making an Advent flower donation, which provides fresh flowers and greenery throughout the church during the Advent and Christmas season. The deadline to contribute is Monday, Dec. 8. Envelopes are available at the receptionist desk, or you may give online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page. Names of loved ones will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Angel Tree: Thank you for helping us spread Christmas cheer for students in the Children’s Fresh Air Farm Summer Learning Program! More than 130 angels have been taken this year. Please remember that all gifts are due by Wednesday, Dec. 10, unwrapped but accompanied by a roll of wrapping paper. For questions or to learn other ways to support our students, contact Marion Dukes at (205) 623-2187 or mdukes@ipc-usa.org.



Independent Presbyterian Church

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