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## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

**WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS!** If this is your first visit, we would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. **Contact us:** Please reach out to Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org). **Visit our website:** [ipc-usa.org/welcome](http://ipc-usa.org/welcome)

**FLOWER DEDICATION:** The flowers on the foyer table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark L. Miller.

**LENTEN CHAPEL & LUNCH:** Join us Wednesday, April 1 for the final noonday worship service in the Chapel, followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Reservations are only required if you plan to stay for lunch. Reserve lunch by noon on March 31 at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:

- *Maundy Thursday, April 2:* Service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- *Good Friday, April 3:* Service at Noon in the Sanctuary
- *Easter Sunday, April 5:* Services at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall

**SPRING FAMILY SOCIAL:** Bring your whole family for fellowship and fun at our drop-in social, hosted by the Day School and open to all Day School and IPC families. Join us at Back Forty on Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy an evening connecting with new and familiar faces. Please plan to purchase your family's dinner and drinks.

**A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF IPC'S SANCTUARY:** Join us Sunday, April 12 as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of IPC's Sanctuary. Instead of our usual three services, the congregation will gather for one worship service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School will meet that morning, and a congregational lunch prepared by IPC's Kim Martin will follow. RSVPs for lunch (\$10) are required to ensure accurate seating arrangements and number of meals. Please register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

**THE REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is identifying qualified nominees to serve as church officers. The online nomination form is available at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org), or you can email nominations to [RNC@ipc-usa.org](mailto:RNC@ipc-usa.org). The deadline to submit is Sunday, April 19.

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. At the commencement, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed.

*from [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)*

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## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

**Rev. Kevin J. Long**  
Pastor  
[kevin.long@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kevin.long@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. Susan A. Clayton**  
Associate Pastor, Congregational  
Care and Adult Ministries  
[sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. D. Nicole Newton**  
Associate Pastor, Discipleship  
[nnewton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:nnewton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. David J. Seamon**  
Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach  
[dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org)

**Cammie Ashworth**  
Director of Youth Ministries  
[cashworth@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cashworth@ipc-usa.org)

**Beth Middleton**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
[bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org)

**Stacy Pulliam**  
Member Engagement and  
Assimilation Coordinator  
[spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org)

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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

**Rev. Kevin Long**, Pastor  
**Brett Burcham**, Acoustic Guitar  
**Eric Onimus**, Bass Guitar  
**Carlos Pino**, Electric Guitar  
**Jeff Lopez**, Horns

**Fred Rogan**, Steel Guitar  
**Tommy Bowen**, Horns  
**Hayden Thomas**, Sound

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



MARCH 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY



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### Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Phone: 205.933.1830  
[ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) | [facebook.com/ipcbirmingham](https://facebook.com/ipcbirmingham)  
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

# WELCOME TO THE TABLE

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## GATHERING

We *gather* as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

### Prelude

### Gathering Song

*"People Get Ready"*

### Welcome

### Opening Hymn

*"How Great Thou Art"*

Verse 1: O Lord my God,  
When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r thru'out the universe displayed

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Verse 2: And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

*(Repeat Chorus)*

Verse 3: When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

*(Repeat Chorus)*

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## LISTENING

We *listen* for the word of God through  
confession, passing the peace, Scripture, and preaching

### Prayer of Confession (unison)

O Thou, Redeemer King, we are quick to join the crowds in singing your praises today. With loud hosannas we welcome your arrival into our city, our church, and our homes. But later this week, we will be as quick to deny we ever knew you – so addicted are we to the way things are. Forgive us for living as if our Savior had not arrived. Forgive us for failing to follow you all the way to the cross. Forgive us for the fear that blinds us to the hope that comes only from you, our good and gracious King. Amen.

*Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.*

### Declaration of Pardon

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

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### Peace

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

All: **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."*

### Confessional Response: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

### Sermon: "Expect the Unexpected"

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## RESPONDING

We *respond* to the hearing of God's word through  
reflection, prayer, offering, and communion

### Invitation to Discipleship

### Sharing of Gifts

*In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty.*

- Offering Song: "Jesus Paid it All"
- To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.

### Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

- Prayers of the People and 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.**

- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Communion Song: "Goodness Of God"
- Prayer after Communion

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## SENDING

We are *sent* out into the world to love God and our neighbors

### Closing Hymn

*"Because He Lives"*

Verse 1: **God sent His son,  
They called Him, Jesus;  
He came to love,  
Heal and forgive;  
He lived and died  
To buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there  
To prove my Savior lives!**

Chorus: **Because He lives,  
I can face tomorrow!  
Because He lives,  
All fear is gone.  
Because I know  
He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!**

Verse 2: **How sweet to hold  
A newborn baby,  
And feel the pride  
And joy he brings;  
But greater still  
The calm assurance:  
This child can face  
Uncertain days because He Lives!**

*(Repeat Chorus)*

Verse 3: **And then one day,  
I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final  
War with pain;  
And then, as death  
Gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He lives!**

*(Repeat Chorus)*

### Benediction

### Postlude

*Our service is over, let our service begin,  
fed by mystery, forgiven of sin.  
Now our faith made real, when brokenness we heal,  
our service is over, let our service begin.*