

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 16, 2026 | 10:00 A.M.

The Gathering for Worship

We gather as a Family of Faith and prepare our hearts to worship God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, keep me faithful until the end. May I hold on even when strength is gone until the strength comes back again. May I fight even after I have lost, that defeat may be deceived and give place to victory. And when I fail altogether may I find myself hurried forward once again by the Love that never fails. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Fantasy, Fugue and Chorale on *Engelberg*"

Searle Wright

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

"Alleluia. The Lord is ris'n indeed"

George Thalben-Ball

Alleluia. The Lord is ris'n indeed. O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 9

Rev. Seamon

Minister: I will give praise to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

People: I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Minister: The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

People: Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Minister: Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion, proclaim among the nations what he has done.

All: Let us worship the Lord our God.

❖ HYMN 41

"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

LYONS

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, I know not what to ask of you. You alone know what I need, and you love me better than I love myself. I ask neither for crosses nor consolations. I simply come before you, sinner that I am, with an open heart. Behold and do to me according to your tender mercy. Smite, heal, depress, or raise me up. I wait silently before you. I offer myself in sacrifice, and yield to you. I would have neither desire nor purpose apart from your will. Amen.

François Fenelon, d. 1715

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 (HYMN 581) *"Glory Be to the Father"* GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

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BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Cammie Ashworth & Beth Middleton

The Word

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

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 15:10-17, 22-28

Pew Bible, O.T. pg. 203

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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ANTHEM

“God Be in My Head”

Herbert Howells

God be in my head and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking; God
be at mine end, and my departing.

from Richard Pynson's *Horae BVM*, 1514

*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.*

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SERMON

“The Disobedient King”

Rev. Long

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Response to the Word

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

❖ APOSTLES' CREED

Rev. Newton

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.

LITANY FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Minister: Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these musicians in the name of God and to the special ministry of this congregation to which they are called.

[To the Choir] You have been called to the music ministry of this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence, enthusiasm, and joy?

Choir: **We will.**

Minister: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God and the benefit of this congregation?

Choir: **We will.**

Minister: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of music in this church for the year 2026-2027.

All: **Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

❖ HYMN 641

“When in Our Music God Is Glorified”

HALL

Stanza 4: Choir only

❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

❖ THE DOXOLOGY (HYMN 606)

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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

“Psalm 150”

César Franck

Hallelujah! O praise ye the Lord, praise God in his greatness. Praise ye the Lord in the firmament of His pow'r. Praise ye Him for His mighty acts. Praise ye Him according to His wondrous works. Praise ye Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise ye Him with the psalt'ry and harp. Praise ye Him with the timbrel. Praise Him with the organ and the stringed instruments. Praise ye Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let ev'ry thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Psalm 150

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.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Sending

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

❖ HYMN 724	<i>“O Jesus, I Have Promised”</i>	ANGEL'S STORY
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❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE	<i>“Trumpet Voluntary”</i>	John Bennett
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❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. John N. Lukens and Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell F. Hall, Jr.

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The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Berney Hill Walter, Sr., U.S. Navy, stateside WWII; father of Lucy Walter Burr.

Announcements

Back-to-School Events

TODAY

Join us for two back-to-school traditions on Sunday, August 16: **Blessing of the Backpacks** during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, when students and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks, day school totes, or briefcases for a special blessing, and the **IPC Youth Fall Kickoff** from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at Blackjack Farm for students in grades 7–12.

Beer & Hymns

Monday, August 17 | 7:00 p.m. | The Grocery, 2823 Central Ave., Homewood

Sing old-time hymns (and a few new ones) in a relaxed setting with good food and great company. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Planning for What Matters: Wills, Power of Attorney, and the What-ifs

Sunday, Aug. 23 | 11:00 a.m. | HH Garage

Whether you're starting from scratch or revisiting decisions you've already made, there's no better time than now to have a plan. Join IPC members and estate planning professionals Sheri Robinson and Jessica Grover for a practical conversation about wills, medical and financial powers of attorney, common misconceptions, frequently used terms, and resources for next steps. Brunch will be provided, and childcare is available with registration. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Announcements

Acolyte Registration

Calling all new and returning acolytes! Grades 7th-12th can register now at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page for the 2026-2027 school year. The training will be held next Sunday, August 23.

Presby Parents: Working on Worship (WOW) Parent Kickoff

Sunday, August 23 | 9 a.m. | Great Hall 1

Parents are invited to learn more about helping their children make the transition into the sanctuary worship and become more comfortable and engaged during the service. Parents of children attending the “Working on Worship” (WOW) Retreat on August 29–30 are especially encouraged to attend. We’ll share what to expect from the retreat and some practical ways you can help your child make the transition into “big church.” All parents welcome with childcare available on the Ground Floor!

Working on Worship (WOW) Retreat

August 29-30 | Children's Fresh Air Farm

Children in grades 1–3 are invited to the WOW Retreat on Saturday, August 29 (9 a.m.–7 p.m.) and the whole family is invited to join the retreat participants on Sunday, August 30 (8:30–11 a.m.). This “Almost Overnight” on Saturday includes

games, swimming, crafts, bread making, and meals. On Sunday, families will enjoy a special breakfast and worship service by the children. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Celebrating Rev. Susan Clayton's 25 Years of Ministry at IPC

Sunday, August 30 | IPC Parlor

Join us for a reception following the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, August 30 to honor Rev. Susan Clayton's 25 years of faithful service as IPC's Associate Pastor. Enjoy light refreshments, cake, and fellowship as we gather and celebrate!

Fall at IPC

Mark your calendars as we look forward to the return of our fall schedule at IPC. Wednesday Night Programming and Dinner resume on September 9. On Sunday, September 13, we'll return to our regular worship schedule with services at 8:45 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 5 p.m. at Highland Hall. We'll also gather for our Second Annual Together Again Breakfast from 9–11 a.m. in the Great Hall to celebrate the start of a new season together. More details about fall programming and the breakfast will be shared soon.

Welcome to IPC

Thank you for joining us today. Please sign our friendship pad located in the pew racks so we know who is worshiping with us today. If this is your first visit, you are invited to join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. We look forward to meeting you and telling you more about our church.

To learn more about IPC or membership, please email us at membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the New to IPC page on our website.

Prayer List

Copies of IPC's current prayer list are available in the Parlor and Narthex. Our Intercessory Prayer Group meets each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel to pray by name for those on the list. To submit a prayer request for a loved one, yourself, or any prayer need, please contact Connie Logan at clogan@ipc-usa.org.

Special Gifts Received

Kirkwood: (*Horizon Fund*)
In memory of Dr. Edward Booth
and Mr. William F. Edmonds.

Give To IPC

Mail a Check:

Independent Presbyterian Church
3100 Highland Avenue S.,
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Give Online:

Scan to give in a secure,
convenient format online.



Text to Give:

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

Thank You for Your Gifts:

Questions on how to give can be
directed to Margaret Lane H. Wolff at
mhollingsworth@ipc-usa.org.

Watch Online

We invite you to worship with us
from wherever you are.
Join the 10:00 a.m. livestream at
[YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham](https://www.YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham)

Visiting IPC?

To learn more about joining IPC, email
us at membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the
New to IPC page on our website.

This Week at IPC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 9:00 A.M.** Adult & Youth Sunday School, RM 305/306
9:00 A.M. Childcare, Ground Floor
10:00 A.M. Combined Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall
5:00 P.M. Youth Group Fall Kick-off, Blackjack Farms

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

- 1:00 P.M.** Bridge, RM 308/309
5:30 P.M. Yoga, RM 301
6:00 P.M. Boy Scouts, Scout Hut
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307
7:00 P.M. Beer & Hymns, The Grocery

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- 9:30 A.M.** Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 304
5:30 P.M. Session Meeting, Garage

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

- 9:00 A.M.** Yoga, RM 301
10:30 A.M. Caregiver Support Group, RM 304
10:30 A.M. Zoom Bible Study
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
3:00 P.M. Living After Loss Support Group, RM 304
5:30 P.M. Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

- 11:00 A.M.** Knitting Ministry, RM 105
2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

- 6:30 A.M.** Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2

To learn more about our upcoming events and to register for classes, please visit ipc-usa.org.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

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*

Mrs. Cammie Ashworth, *Director of Youth Ministries*

Mrs. Beth Middleton, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Acolytes: Sam & Layton Meriwether

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir



I N D E P E N D E N T
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

3100 Highland Avenue, South
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

PHONE: (205) 933-1830

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

ipc-usa.org