Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to IPC!

Founded in 1915, Independent Presbyterian Church has long held a commitment to glorifying the triune God through worship, the use of beauty and the arts, and serving our community in Jesus' name. From the beginning, our founders sought to establish a church reflecting God's love for humanity and humanity's love for God.

Today, we continue this legacy by cultivating meaningful worship, nurturing our congregation to grow as disciples of Jesus, and engaging in acts of service that reflect Christ's command to love God and love our neighbors. Whether you are a life-long follower of Jesus, a new believer, or still curious, know that all are welcome here.

If this is your first visit, we look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church. All are invited to the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. 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.

Children are always welcome to worship with us in the Sanctuary. Materials to build a Worship Bag are in the Parlor before each service. Please replace the items when the service ends.

We are so grateful that you are here. Please sign the friendship pad located in the pew racks, so we know you are worshiping with us today.

THE COVER features a 2018 acrylic painting of IPC's exterior by McKenzie Kirk Brannon (1960–2025), a beloved friend of IPC whose spirit and art touched the heart of Community Ministries for many years.

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Make me one, O God, as Thou art one. Put down war in my members. Make me one with the outside world. Fit me in with all the movement of Thy universe. Help me to see our problems and our victories as one—one since Thou art one. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE "Chorale Prelude on *Down Ampney*" Herbert Sumsion

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 *"As Many Are Led by the Spirit of God"* George Thalben-Ball

As many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 107 **Rev. Clayton**

Minister: Give thanks to God, who is good,
People: Whose faithful love lasts forever!
Minister: When we are hungry and thirsty, lost in the wilderness,
People: God satisfies our thirst, and fills the hungry with good things.
Minister: God turns deserts into pools of water, and thirsty ground into springs.
People: Let us worship God.

❖ **HYMN 307** *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* CWM RHONDDA

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. Forgive us, God. Set us free from fear so that we may serve you with gladness; 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**

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Rev. Newton**

INVITATION TO THE ANGEL TREE **Mary Stewart Beasley,**
Children's Fresh Air Farm Subcommittee

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:45 A.M.)
Elisabeth Lynn Deer **Rev. Seamon**

❖ **APOSTLES' CREED (8:45 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.

The Word

We listen for the word of God through scripture, music, and preaching.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:1-13 Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 22

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"God, My King, Thy Might Confessing" J. S. Bach

God, my king, thy might confessing, ever will I bless thy name; day by day thy throne addressing, still will I thy praise proclaim. All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee, thee shall all thy saints adore. King supreme shall they confess thee and proclaim thy sovereign pow'r. Full of kindness and compassion, slow to anger, vast in love, God is good to all creation; all His works His goodness prove. Still, Almighty, Thee confessing, shall my tongue Thy praise proclaim. And may all mankind with blessing, ever hail Thy holy name!

Psalm 145, Richard Mant

During the singing of this anthem, children may follow the acolyte down the center aisle. Children 1st through 3rd grade are invited to Working on Worship (WOW) in the Chapel in the 11:00 a.m. service, and children kindergarten and younger will go to the Ground Floor for childcare.

SERMON *"Working While We Wait"* **Rev. Newton**

The Response to the Word

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

❖ **HYMN 432** *"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"* REPTON

❖ **APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 A.M.)** **Rev. Seamon**

Find the words to the Apostles' Creed on the previous page.

❖ **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

"Gloria" from *Twelfth Mass,* K. Anh. 232 Wenzel Müller

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus, benedicimus, adoramus, glorificamus, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex Coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

Glorious is thy name, Almighty Lord. All the angels stand about thy throne. Let all nations bow before thee, and declare thy wondrous works. We praise thee. We give thanks to thee. Lord, we adore thee, we bless thee. We thank thee for thy great glory. Heaven is thy throne and earth is thy footstool. Thou art King over all the world. Glorious is thy name, O Lord. Blessing and honour be to God for ever and evermore.

from the Catholic Mass

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

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

❖ **HYMN 107** *"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"* REJOICE, REJOICE

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE** *"Fête"* Raymond Weidner

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Rolla E. Beck, Jr.**
and **Mr. Rolla Earl Beck III**.

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **George Lockett Wood, Sr.**, Private; 196 Field Artillery
Battalion, WWII; fought in the Battle of Saint-Lô, the Liberation of Paris,
and the Battle of the Bulge; father of Lene Howell; grandfather of Audrey Howell
and Drew Howell.

Today's Baptism

Elisabeth Lynn Deer, born November 25, 2025,
daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Deer, granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Deer
and Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diehl.

Announcements

Highland Hall Renovations

Construction Begins Nov. 9

We're excited to begin needed repairs and improvements to Highland Hall on Monday, Nov. 9. The building is expected to remain closed through the end of April.

TODAY Join us for the Table on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Great Hall beginning this evening, and stay after the service for fellowship and a light supper as we settle into our temporary worship space together.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during construction and as our ministries gather in temporary spaces. Find project updates and program locations at *qrco.de/3116updates*. Questions? Contact Lea Anne Hardy at *lhardy@ipc-usa.org*.

November Organ Recital Series

TODAY | *4:00 p.m.* | *Sanctuary*

The 62nd Annual November Organ Recital Series continues this afternoon with guest artist Chase Loomer from Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Georgia. Distinguished as one of the longest-running organ recital series in the country, the November Organ Recitals are offered as a gift to the community of Birmingham. Learn more at *ipcmusic.org*.

Help IPC Youth Group Move

TODAY Lend a hand this evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We'll meet at Highland Hall to help the Youth Group move into the house at 1157 Lakeview Crescent, next to the Day School playground. The evening will also include a tour of the new Youth House and a grill-out for volunteers.

Angel Tree

TODAY | *Find Angels in the Parlor*

Help us spread Christmas cheer for the students at the Children's Fresh Air Farm's Summer Learning Program. Angels can be picked up in the Parlor today or selected online. All gifts are due by Tuesday, Dec. 8. For questions, contact Marion Dukes at (205) 623-2187 or *mdukes@ipc-usa.org*.

Harvest for Hunger Campaign

Through Sunday, November 22

The food pantry shelves are empty, and our neighbors need food and hygiene items now. Through Harvest for Hunger, IPC's annual collection, we can restock our Blessing Boxes and Weekend Buddy Bags room. If you're able, please bring a donation to IPC this week so we can begin filling those shelves. Pick up a Harvest for Hunger grocery bag in the Parlor to find the list of needed items.

This Week at IPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School Classes
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
3:45 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study, GH2
4:00 P.M. November Organ Recital, Sanctuary
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, **New! Great Hall**
6:00 P.M. Youth Group, Meet at Highland Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other, *Presbyterian Women*, RM 304
- Digging Deeper in Our Faith Through the Stories of the Old Testament, *Presbyterian 101 Combined Classes*, RM 305
- Epistle to the Hebrews: Its Social and Cultural World, *Wonder Years*, RM 306
- The Book of Romans, *Reformed*, RM 309
- The Prayers of Henry Edmonds, *Bridges*, GH1
- Youth Sunday School (7th-12th Grade), RM 101
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
- Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00 A.M. Home for Faith, RM 305
NOON Bible Study with Lucy Turner, RM 304
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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 303
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 301

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:00 A.M. Yoga, RM 301
10:30 A.M. Women at the Well, RM 101
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
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

5:00 P.M. The Upward Way, RM 305
5:00 P.M. Youth Grant Team, RM 101
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
5:30 P.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
5:30 P.M. KidsROCK, Ground & 1st Floors
6:00 P.M. Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
NOON Bible Study with Rev. Clayton, RM 307
1:30 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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*.

Annual Pledge

Together as one, we worship, grow in faith, care for one another, and serve our neighbors near and far. Your 2027 pledge helps sustain these ministries and the mission we support.

Find pledge cards at the reception desk and in the Parlor, or text PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and follow the prompts. Please submit your pledge by Thanksgiving to help IPC plan for the year ahead.

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

Food Pantry: In memory of Stephen Sutherland, Pat Pelham, and Eliza McKewen. In honor of Susan Clayton.

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 11:00 a.m. livestream at *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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, *Associate Pastor, Congregational Care & Adult Ministries*
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.) Russell Chambliss, Charlotte Chambliss, Gavin Vanlandingham
(11:00 a.m.) Mabel Fleenor, Henry Fleenor, Charlie Smith

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*
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