

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 26, 2026 | 10:00 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 worshipping 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

Be Thou, O God, the presiding presence in my life. Keep the throne. Lead me. Surround me. Uphold me. Dwell in me. Possess me. Without Thee, I miss my way, I wander, I faint, I forget the meaning of myself and of life. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Adagio Molto" from *Organ Sonata No. 3*

Alexandre Guilmant

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Seamon

Minister: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

People: **Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

Minister: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: **Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

Minister: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered.

All: **O you his chosen ones: Praise the Lord!**

❖ HYMN 327

"From All that Dwell Below the Skies"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, that we have not remembered you enough this week. We have gone our own ways without being mindful of your presence. We have sought our own welfare without thinking of others. We have neglected your kingdom for the pursuit of our own desires in this world. Forgive us, we pray and turn us again to the remembrance of things that matter. Let our commitment to you become fresh and strong again. In Jesus' name. 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. Clayton

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 11

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Spirit Truth, Pure Light of Love”

Robert J. Powell

Spirit Truth, pure Light of Love, Guiding Light of God above; Make Your beacon ours;
Inspire us to shine so all may know The radiance of the Spirit’s own Revealing power.
Spirit Wind, sweet Song of Love, Stirring Song of God above, Make Your music ours;
Excite us to sing so all may know The anthem of the Spirit’s own Resounding power.
Spirit Fire, fierce Breath of Love, Blazing Breath of God above, Make Your passion ours;
Impel us to live so all may know The fervor of the Spirit’s own Resplendent power.

Carol McClure

*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.*

SERMON

“Hidden in Plain Sight”

Rev. Clayton

The Response to the Word

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

❖ HYMN 401

"Here in This Place"

GATHER WITH US

❖ APOSTLES' CREED

Mr. Tittle

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.

❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

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

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day and by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy dear son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one. Riches
I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and
thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of
Heaven, my victory won, may I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun! Heart of
my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Old Irish poem, versified by Eleanor Hull

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 310

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

ST. THOMAS

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“Postlude alla Marziale”

Luigi Bottazzo

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Johnston Bowie,**
Mrs. Elizabeth Bowie Crawford, Mr. Edward Burwell Crawford,
Miss Betty Crawford, Alice and Don Maring, Sr., Charlotte and Don Maring, Jr.,
Anne and Clarence Wiley, and Alan T. Drennen, Jr.

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The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **George Washington Connors III**, Coast Guard,
stateside Korean Conflict; uncle of Lochrane Coleman Smith, and great-uncle of
Lochrane Connors Smith Chase.

Announcements

Prayers for Our Mwandi Mission Team

Please keep our IPC mission team in your prayers as they travel to Mwandi, Zambia, August 1–11. Pray for safe travels, meaningful relationships, and that God would work through them as they serve alongside our ministry partners. Those traveling are listed below:

Phil Collins
Callie Dukes
Susan Dukes
Tammy Johnson
Georgia Miller
Carol Smith
Luke Zimmerman

Mwandi Mission Trip Donations

Donations are due by July 29

Help support our team traveling to Mwandi by donating much-needed school and educational supplies. Requested items include pens, pencils, crayons, felt-tip pens, Sharpies, stationery, glue, Blu Tack, and AA, AAA, and C batteries. The team also welcomes donations of gently used laptops for nursing students. Please bring donations by Wednesday, July 29, to allow time for packing before departure.

Donations may be dropped off in Community Ministries on the ground floor. For questions, please contact Catherine Sager at csager@ipc-usa.org.

Announcements

Apply for the 2026 Youth Grant Team

Applications are due by August 1

Rising high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for IPC's Youth Grant Team, a 12-week program focused on Christian philanthropy, leadership, and group decision-making. Team members will learn about the IPC Foundation, evaluate grant applications, and work together to award approximately \$20,000 to deserving nonprofit organizations. To learn more, contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org.

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.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

Each summer, we are reminded of the great difficulties facing some families that rely on school-provided meals and may now be struggling to meet this additional need. With your help, we can keep the Food Pantry stocked to support our friends and neighbors in need. Please see the blue pew cards in the sanctuary for ideas on what to donate, or contact Catherine Sager at csager@ipc-usa.org with any questions.

Summer Sunday School

Adults and youth are invited to a combined Sunday School class at 9:00 a.m. from June 28 through August 30. Dr. Jeff Leonard will lead a series titled "Ten Kings of Israel: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Israel's Monarchy" in RM 305/306. Childcare is available on the Ground Floor.

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 Dr. Fouad Fouad.

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, JULY 26

- 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

MONDAY, JULY 27

- 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, JULY 28

- 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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- 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
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

THURSDAY, JULY 30

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

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- 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. Susan A. Clayton, *Associate Pastor, Congregational Care & Adult Ministries*

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

Mr. Gregory Roberson, *Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir*

Mr. Gaige Tittle, *Seminary Intern*

Acolyte: Charlotte Chambliss

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir Ensemble



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

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