

# Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



## Service for the Lord's Day

*The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 | 10:00 A.M. | COMMUNION SUNDAY

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# The Gathering for Worship

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

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## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

My Father, send me about working the miracles of love. Give me to love the weak into strength, the timid into confidence, the ugly into beauty. Let me add luster to my own life by losing myself in love. Amen.

*from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds*

## PRELUDE

*"Voluntary on St. Columba"*

Harold Friedell

*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

*"Seek Ye the Lord"*

George Thalben-Ball

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found: call ye upon him while he is near.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Rev. Newton**

**Minister:** Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

**People:** **Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

**Minister:** Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

**People:** **God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**

**Minister:** In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**People:** **Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.**

**All:** **Let us worship the God of love!**

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❖ HYMN 49

*"The God of Abraham Praise"*

LEONI

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

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❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, You call us to live as children of the light, to love one another, and to honor one another. We confess our failures to follow in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us. Teach us how to live as children of the light. Cleanse our hearts and minds of all that hinders us from loving you and loving our neighbor. May our lives radiate faith active in love, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*A period of silence for personal confession.*

❖ KYRIE ELEISON

Choir: 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."*

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## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*The congregation may be seated.*

Choir:      Glory be to God on high, and in earth, peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee  
for thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father  
Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive  
our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have  
mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; Thou  
only O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God  
the Father. Amen.

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Rev. Clayton**

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## 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

Romans 13:8-14

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 124

Minister:    The Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

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### ❖ HYMN 300      “We Are One in the Spirit”      THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*During the singing of this hymn, children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte  
down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for childcare.*

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

## The Response to the Word

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

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### ❖ NICENE CREED

**I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. Amen.**

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### ❖ 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

*“Thee We Adore”*

T. Frederick H. Candlyn

Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour, Thee, Who in Thy sacrament art pleased to be; Both flesh and spirit in Thy presence fail, Yet here Thy presence we devoutly hail. O blest memorial of our dying Lord, Who living bread to men doth here afford! O may our souls forever feed on Thee, And Thou, O Christ, forever precious be. Fountain of goodness, Jesu, Lord and God, Cleanse us, unclean, in Thy most cleansing flood; Increase our faith and love, that we may know The hope and peace which from Thy presence flow. O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see, May what we thirst for soon our portion be, To gaze on Thee unveiled, and see Thy face, The vision of Thy glory and Thy grace.

*St. Thomas Aquinas*

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## The Eucharist

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INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

**Rev. Long**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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## SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

*The minister continues in prayer.*

Choir: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heav'n and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*The minister continues in prayer.*

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

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## GREAT AMEN

*The minister continues in prayer.*

Minister: All glory and honor are yours, almighty Father.

**People: Amen.**

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## 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.*

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## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Agnus Dei” from *Communion Service in A Minor*

Harold Darke

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

“Ave Verum Corpus”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed: Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death!

*14th-century chant attr. Pope Innocent VI*

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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### The Sending

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

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❖ HYMN 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

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❖ BENEDICTION

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❖ POSTLUDE

“A Thornbury Fanfare”

Malcolm Archer

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*



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# Flowers

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Thomas Pankey**, U.S. Army; and in honor of **Thomas Pankey, Junior**, U.S. Navy; **Maggie Adams Jones**, U.S. Marines; **Bradley Jones**, U.S. Marines; **William Pankey**, U.S. Navy; and **John Pankey**, U.S. Navy; family of Valerie Pankey and Valerie Watson.

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## Announcements

### Special Concert

**TODAY** | 4:00 p.m. | Great Hall

Today, there will be a special concert for cello and piano at 4:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Pianist Ean Ju Davis and cellist Thomas Maternik will present works by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, and Rachmaninoff. Come enjoy this afternoon of works by the Masters of Music.

### Fall at IPC

*Sunday, September 13 | Return to worship services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.*

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 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 5:00 p.m. at Highland Hall.

### Together Again Breakfast

*Sunday, September 13 | 9–11 a.m. | Great Hall*

We'll gather for our Second Annual Together Again Breakfast. All are welcome to enjoy a hot breakfast bar and pickup options, coffee and beverages, and fellowship as we celebrate our first Sunday back on our regular worship schedule. There is no need to RSVP; just drop in anytime between 9:00–11:00 am. Childcare will be available on the ground floor.

### Dominican Republic Mission Trip

*January 16–23, 2027*

God calls us to receive and share the love of Jesus Christ across cultures, languages, and communities. If you are interested in joining us for a mission journey to the Dominican Republic January 16–23, 2027, contact Rev. David Seamon at [dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org). The deadline to sign up is September 15.

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## 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 at our church, please email us at [membership@ipc-usa.org](mailto:membership@ipc-usa.org) or visit the New to IPC page on our website.

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## Today's Service Music

In place of the regular congregational music, the choir will sing the *Kyrie, Gloria, and Sanctus/Benedictus*. This music is from the *Communion Service in A Minor* by Harold Darke.

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## Special Gifts Received

**Food Pantry:** In memory of Eliza McKewen.

**Social Services:** In honor of Rev. Susan Clayton.

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## Prayer List

Copies of IPC's current prayer list are available in the Parlor and Narthex. To submit a prayer request for a loved one, yourself, or any prayer need, please contact Connie Logan at [clogan@ipc-usa.org](mailto:clogan@ipc-usa.org).

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## 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.

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## 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).

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# This Week at IPC

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## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

### Holiday Worship Schedule:

- 10:00 A.M.** Combined Traditional Worship & Communion, Sanctuary  
**4:00 P.M.** Special Concert, Great Hall
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## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**HAPPY LABOR DAY!** Church Offices Closed

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## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 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
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## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 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  
**5:30 P.M.** Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304  
**7:00 P.M.** Lakeview AA, RM 307
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## 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

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

- 6:30 A.M.** Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
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## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 9:00 A.M.** Depart for Middle School Retreat
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## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 8:45 A.M.** Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
**9:00 A.M.** Together Again Breakfast, Great Hall (9:00-11:00 a.m.)  
**10:00 A.M.** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors  
**11:00 A.M.** Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
**3:45 P.M.** Young Adult Bible Study, Parlor  
**5:00 P.M.** Table Worship, Highland Hall  
**6:00 P.M.** Youth Group, Garage

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE:**

**The Rev. Kevin J. Long**, *Pastor*

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

**The Rev. D. Nicole Newton**, *Associate Pastor, Discipleship*

**Dr. Jeff R. McLelland**, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*

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**Acolytes:** *Caroline Morgan, Elle Morris*

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**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

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**PHONE:** (205) 933-1830

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

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*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

**[ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org)**