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:** To learn more about joining IPC, please send an email to membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the *New to IPC* page on our website.

FLOWER DEDICATION: The flowers in the Great Hall landing are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark L. Miller.

HIGHLAND HALL RENOVATIONS: We're excited to begin needed repairs and improvements to Highland Hall on Nov. 9. The building is expected to remain closed through the end of April. **Join us for the Table each Sunday at 5:00 p.m. in the Great Hall beginning this evening, and stay after this 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: Join us for the 62nd Annual November Organ Recital Series. Enjoy free concerts on the first four Sundays in November at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. These programs are a gift to the community. Learn more at ipcmusic.org.

HARVEST FOR HUNGER: Our 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. The list of needed items is printed on the bag and available at ipc-usa.org. Donations are welcome anytime from now through Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day on Sunday, November 22.

ANGEL TREE: 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.

ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN: 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 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.

CHRISTMAS CITRUS FRUIT ORDERS: Support the IPC Choir by purchasing fresh Christmas citrus fruit. Order forms are available around the church and from any choir member now through Nov. 22. You may also order online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the color green which represents new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
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Rev. Susan A. Clayton
Associate Pastor, Congregational Care and Adult Ministries
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Rev. D. Nicole Newton
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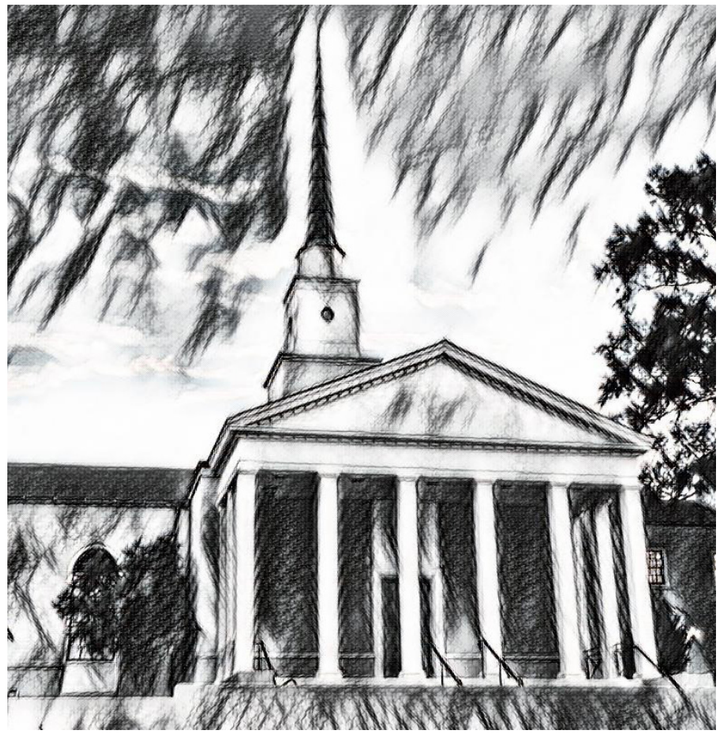
PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Nicole Newton, Assoc. Pastor
Sarah Mason, Worship Leader
Brett Burcham, Acoustic Guitar
Eric Onimus, Bass Guitar
Carlos Pino, Electric Guitar
Fred Rogan, Steel Guitar
Leif Bondarenko, Drums
Jeff Lopez, Horns
Tommy Bowen, Horns
Hayden Thomas, Sound

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 | facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



NOVEMBER 8, 2026

THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome to The Table

Gathering

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

Prelude

Gathering Song *"Come to the Feast"*

Welcome

Opening Hymn *"His Mercy Is More"*

Verse 1: **What love could remember no wrongs we have done**
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Verse 2: **What patience would wait as we constantly roam**
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus: **Praise the Lord, His mercy is more**
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Verse 3: **What riches of kindness He lavished on us**
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Repeat Chorus

Listening

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

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.

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: *Matthew 25:1-13*

Sermon: *"Working While We Wait"*

Responding

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

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: *"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"*
- 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: *"Called Me Higher"*
- Prayer after Communion

Sending

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

Closing Hymn *"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"*

Verse 1: **God be with you till we meet again,**
by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: **Till we meet, till we meet,**
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

Verse 2: **God be with you till we meet again;**
when life's perils thick confound you,
put His arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3: **God be with you till we meet again;**
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.

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.