

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

Palm Sunday

MARCH 29, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. | COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, give us faith that whatever ought to be will be. May we be confident that we can do whatever Thy will is that we shall do. May we find out Thy way, may we join ourselves to it, then leave all the rest with Thee. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE "March upon Handel's *Lift Up Your Heads*" 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.

INTROIT "Hosanna to the Son of David" Tomás Luis de Victoria

Hosanna to the son of David; blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 24

Mr. Tittle

Minister: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

People: **Who is the King of glory?**

Minister: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

People: **Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Minister: Who is he, this King of glory?

People: **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

❖ HYMN 196

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

(11:00 a.m.) The children will lead the procession with palm branches.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Thou, Redeemer King, we are quick to join the crowds in singing your praises today. With loud hosannas we welcome your arrival into our city, our church, and our homes. But later this week, we will be as quick to deny we ever knew you – so addicted are we to the way things are. Forgive us for living as if our Savior had not arrived. Forgive us for failing to follow you all the way to the cross. Forgive us for the fear that blinds us to the hope that comes only from you, our good and gracious King. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

❖ KYRIE ELEISON

from The Independent Service by Dr. Jeff McLelland

Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,
Lord _____ have mer - cy up - on us _____

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lord have mer - cy up - on us, Christ have mer - cy up - on us,". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "Lord _____ have mer - cy up - on 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

from The Independent Service

Musical score for Gloria Patri, consisting of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er, world with - out end. A - men." The score includes a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of each staff.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Clayton

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 11:1-11

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 36

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ HYMN 197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

ELLACOMBE

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.

SERMON

“Expect the Unexpected”

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.

❖ 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.

❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Today is One Great Hour of Sharing, a day for celebratory giving on Palm Sunday to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can contribute by placing your donation in the offering plate marked with "One Great Hour of Sharing" or by texting SHARE to (205) 927-3100 and following the instructions. Thank you for your generosity!

❖ 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

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates” from Messiah

G. F. Handel

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory; it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? Even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Psalm 24:7-10

The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Rev. Newton

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.

SANCTUS

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po-wer and might. Hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

AMEN

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:

A - men, A - men, A - men!

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.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“*Agnus Dei*”

Thomas Morley

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nostri.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

“*Motet for Passion Sunday*”

Frank Ferko

Passing from one celebration to another, from palms and branches let us now make haste, O faithful, to the solemn and saving celebration of Christ’s Passion. Let us see Him undergo voluntary suffering for our sake and let us sing to Him with thankfulness a fitting hymn: Fountain of tender mercy and haven of salvation, O Lord, glory to you.

from Vespers of Palm Sunday, Byzantine Rite

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

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

❖ HYMN 93

“*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*”

TRURO

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“*Jesu, Meine Freude, BWV 610*”

J. S. Bach

Flowers

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Kenneth Bryan Horton**, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, fighter pilot in both WWII and The Korean Conflict; received numerous medals including two Navy Crosses and the Distinguished Flying Cross; father of Susan Horton Eiland and Kenneth Roy Horton; grandfather of Susanna Horton Eiland and Morgan Bryan Eiland.

Flowers

The rose in the Children's Chapel is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth of **Audrey Parada Wheeler**, born on March 14, 2026, daughter of Sallie & Ryan Wheeler, sister of Sophie & Hudson Wheeler, and granddaughter of Laurie & Jeff Grantham.

Announcements

Children's Egg Hunt

TODAY | *Following 11:00 a.m. worship*

Children are invited to gather in the IPC Courtyard (Toddlers) and Rushton Park (4K+) for our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

Holy Week Worship Services

- Maundy Thursday, *April 2*
Service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Good Friday, *April 3*
Service at Noon in the Sanctuary
- Easter Sunday, *April 5*
Services at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall

Lenten Chapel & Lunch

Join us April 1 for the final noonday worship service in the Chapel, followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Reservations are only required if you plan to stay for lunch. Reserve lunch by noon on March 31 at ipc-usa.org.

Spring Family Social

Thursday, April 9 | 5:30 p.m. | Back Forty

Bring your whole family for fellowship and fun at our drop-in Family Social, hosted by the Day School and open to all Day School and IPC families. Enjoy a relaxed evening connecting with new and familiar faces. Please plan to purchase your family's dinner and drinks.

Centennial Celebration of IPC's Sanctuary

Sunday, April 12 | Worship & Lunch

Join us as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of IPC's Sanctuary. Instead of our usual three services, the congregation will gather for one worship service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School will meet that morning, and a congregational lunch prepared by IPC's Kim Martin will follow. RSVPs for lunch (\$10) are required to ensure accurate seating arrangements and number of meals. Register at ipc-usa.org.

Welcome to IPC

Thank you for joining us today. Please sign our friendship pad located in the pew racks so we know who is worshipping 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.

Church Officer Nominations

Deadline to Nominate: April 19

The Representative Nominating Committee (RNC) is identifying qualified nominees to serve as church officers, including Elder, Deacon, IPC Foundation trustee, RNC member at large, and vice president of the congregation. Paper nomination forms are available in the parlor and at the receptionist's desk and may be deposited in the box in the parlor or at the desk. The online form is available at ipc-usa.org, or nominations may be submitted by email to RNC@ipc-usa.org.

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.

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.

Watch Online

We invite you to worship with us from wherever you are. Join the 11:00 a.m. livestream at [YouTube.com @IPCBirmingham](https://www.youtube.com/@IPCBirmingham).

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Children's Palm Processional,
Sanctuary
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
12:15 P.M. Children's Egg Hunt
3:45 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study, Highland
Hall Loft
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall
6:00 P.M. Youth Group, Highland Hall Garage

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- Discussing John's Gospel of Faith (Reformed Bible Study Class), RM 309
- New Testament Rhetoric (Wonder Years & Seekers Classes), RM 305
- Love Carved in Stone (Presbyterian Women), RM 304
- Presbyterian 101: Digging Deep Into Our Faith (Combined Classes: Bridges, Crossroads, Trenches & Foundations), RM 306
- Youth Sunday School (7th-12th Grade), RM 101
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
- Nursery (6 weeks-2 years), RM G22
- Toddlers (2-3 years), RM G06
- Preschool (4+ years), RM G08

MONDAY, MARCH 30

- 1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308/309
5:30 P.M. Yoga, RM 301
5:30 P.M. Books & Becoming Book Club, RM 303
6:00 P.M. Boy Scouts, Scout Hut

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

- 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, APRIL 1

- 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
NOON Chapel & Lunch, Chapel & Great Hall
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
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, APRIL 2

- 11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
6:30 P.M. Maundy Thursday Worship Service,
Sanctuary

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- 6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
NOON Good Friday Worship Service,
Sanctuary

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

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

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

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

Mr. Gaige Tittle, *Seminary Intern*

Acolyte:

(8:45 a.m.) Layton Meriwether, Sam Meriwether, Caleb Siegel

(11:00 a.m.) Heidi Hollingsworth, Katelyn Long, AC Monk

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