

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Second Sunday in Lent

MARCH 1, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. | COMMUNION SUNDAY

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, you are invited to join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. We look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church.

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 Celtic cross, an ancient Christian symbol. Its use by Presbyterian churches in the U.S. represents our historical ties with The Reformed Tradition and our Scottish roots. The circle of the cross represents eternity, and is symbolic of God and God's love, which has no beginning or end. The cross represents Jesus Christ and his saving death and resurrection.

IN KEEPING WITH TRADITIONAL LITURGICAL PRACTICES, our Sunday worship services during Lent change slightly to observe this most penitential season. The choir processes in silence, the Gloria Patri is omitted, the postlude takes on a more reflective nature, and a plain brass cross is placed on the Communion Table. In the same spirit of simplicity, we also scale back our bulletin cover, so that these intentional changes may deepen your observance of Lent and prepare your heart to experience the joy and glory of Easter more fully and abundantly.

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Save me, O God, from discouragement. Show me Thy kingdom bravely marching on.
Let me catch step with all the host. Thrill me with the mighty movement. Stay me with
the perfect promise. Hold me true to the glory that is to be. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE *"Wondrous Love, Variations on a Shape Note Hymn"* Samuel Barber

*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. Clayton

Minister: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Minister: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord will keep your life.

**People: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time
on and forevermore.**

All: Let us praise the Lord!

SILENT PROCESSION

❖ **HYMN 644** *"Give Thanks, O Christian People"* ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and our failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find the solid thing that will center us again. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good you create in the world. Help us to set aside all of our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his 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."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:38–42

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 55

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ HYMN 351

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

CHARLESTOWN

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

“Models of Discipleship”

Rev. Dr. Bowden

The Response to the Word

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

❖ NICENE CREED

Mr. Tittle

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

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.**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Kyrie” from *Messe Solennelle*

Louis Vierne

Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

prayer from the Ordinary of the Mass

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 AND BENEDICTUS

Minister: Therefore with all creation, we proclaim your praise.

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The minister continues in prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith:

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

The minister continues in prayer, and then all pray together.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"God So Loved the World"

Bob Chilcott

Janet Ort, soprano

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoso believeth in him, should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

“*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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending

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

❖ **HYMN 716**

“*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*”

BEACH SPRING

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE**

“*O God, thou faithful God*”

Johannes Brahms

Flowers

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Auddis Marion “Buddy” Walker, Jr.**; Staff Sergeant as a nose gunner on the B-24 Liberators in the 15th Air Force, 485th Bomber Group, WWII; father of Marion Walker.

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The flowers in the Children’s Chapel are given to the glory of God and in memory of **Rosamond Glover Riley**.

Announcements

Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Series

TODAY | *Worship & Sunday School*

IPC welcomes guest preacher Rev. Dr. Anna M. V. Bowden, Associate Professor of New Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Bowden will preach at the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services, and a video replay of the morning worship service will be shown at the Table worship service at 5:00 p.m. She will also lead an adult Sunday School class “Women in the New Testament” in the Sanctuary. This series is generously supported by the Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Fund, established by the Walthall family and maintained by the IPC Foundation as part of the IPC Focus on Faith Committee.

KultureCity Lunch & Learn

TODAY | 12:15 pm | GHI

Join us after the 11:00 a.m. worship service in Great Hall 1 for a Lunch & Learn focused on sensory inclusion, neurodiversity, and IPC’s initiative to become KultureCity certified.

Young Adults Bible Study

TODAY | 3:45 p.m. | *Highland Hall Loft*

Gaige Tittle, Seminary Intern, will begin leading a Young Adults Bible Study on Sunday, March 1, walking through Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. This weekly gathering from 3:45–4:45 p.m. offers space for thoughtful study, conversation, and growing together in faith.

Announcements

Woven & Wonder: A Churchwide Series on Growing Faith Together

Thursday, March 5 | Two Sessions

Faith is formed over time through shared practices, meaningful relationships, and the everyday moments of life. Join author and faith-formation leader Meredith Miller for a churchwide day of conversation and reflection. **The morning session (10:00–11:30 a.m.)** is designed for church leaders, educators, and ministry volunteers, while the **evening session (5:00–7:00 p.m.)** includes a reception, book signing, and a talk for parents, grandparents, and all who walk alongside children. Sign up at ipc-usa.org.

Observe the Lenten Season

Lent invites us into a season of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Learn more about worship opportunities, devotionals, and ways to engage the season at ipc-usa.org.

Lenten Chapel & Lunch

Wednesdays during Lent (through April 1)

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a 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 Tuesday at noon each week at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Chiapas Supply Drive

Donate by Sunday, March 15

The Chiapas mission team is collecting supplies for their upcoming journey March 21–March 28. Please consider supporting this mission by donating new supplies from the list below (quantities needed are included) or you can send monetary donations to the church.

- Paint brushes (22)
- Paint rollers (22)
- Paint roller frames (12)
- Work gloves (22)
- Twin sheets (5 sets)
- King sheets (2 sets)
- Children's Puzzles (12)
- 8 pack Crayola crayons (120)
- Coloring Books (20)
- Basketballs (6)
- Soccer balls (6)
- Hand inflator pumps for balls (3)

Youth Sunday

Sunday, March 15 | All Worship Services

Join us for our annual Youth Sunday as IPC youth in grades 7 through 12 lead the congregation in all elements of worship, including preaching, music, and liturgy. We will also recognize our high school seniors and acolytes during the 11:00 a.m. service and hold a senior celebration lunch in the Great Hall at Noon.

Announcements

IPC Spring KidsROCK Musical: In the Image

Sunday, March 15 | 10:00 a.m. | Highland Hall

During the Sunday School hour, children in 5K through 6th grade will present the Spring KidsROCK Musical, *In the Image*. Through humor, music, and creative storytelling, they will explore what it means to be created in the image of God and how God's attributes shine through our lives.

Beer & Hymns

Monday, March 16 | 7:00 p.m. | The Grocery, 2823 Central Ave., Homewood

Sing old-time hymns (and a few new ones) in a relaxed setting with good food and great company. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

IPC Foundation Lunch & Learn

March 19, 2026 | 11:30 am | GHI

We are pleased to welcome Todd Garrett, President of Medical Missions, who will share about the ministry's global impact and its long partnership with IPC, including work in Malawi and Chiapas. This gathering offers an opportunity to deepen our understanding of their

mission and strengthen collaboration across our ministry teams. Lunch (\$10) will be served in Great Hall 1, and the deadline to register is Tuesday, March 17.

Easter Memorial Donations

Deadline: Sunday, March 22

Honor the memory of your loved ones with an Easter Memorial donation. To ensure names are included in the Easter bulletin, please submit your contribution by Sunday, March 22. Contribution envelopes are available in the pew racks and at the receptionist's desk, and the online donation form can be found on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org.

Book Club: Books & Becoming

Each Monday | 5:30 p.m. | RM 303

Join Rev. Nicole Newton for Books & Becoming, a monthly book club exploring how reading shapes faith, identity, and the way we live together. Meeting on the fourth Monday of each month, the group will start reading *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church* by Amy Kenny.

Special Gifts Received

Kirkwood Funds: (*Horizon Fund*)

In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds
and Mr. Manuel G. Venegas.

Food Pantry

During Lent, help us to continue refilling our Blessing Boxes and Weekend Buddy Bags. This week's most needed items include the following:

- Canned meat
- Cereal
- Soup
- Hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Chef Boyardee
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned fruit/ fruit cups

Donations can be dropped off or sent via a delivery service Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to IPC Community Ministries' entrance on 31st Street South, up from the covered walkway. You can bring items or consider making a monetary gift to assist IPC Food Ministries.

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 1

- 8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
12:15 P.M. KultureCity Lunch & Learn, GH1
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, Garage
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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- Adult Combined Sunday School: “Women in the New Testament,” Sanctuary
 - Youth Sunday School (7th-12th Grade), RM 101
 - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floor
 - Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05
-

MONDAY, MARCH 2

- 9:15 A.M. Home for Faith, Garage
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
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TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercersory Prayer, Chapel
12:00 P.M. Tapestries, RM 217
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 304
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- 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
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
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WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

- 5:00 P.M. The Upward Way, RM 305
5:00 P.M. Youth Midweek Meet Up, RM 101
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
5:30 P.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
5:30 P.M. Kids ROCK Musical Rehearsals & Childcare, 1st Floor
6:00 P.M. Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218
6:00 P.M. The Lost Yet Sacred Misfits, RM 306
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite
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THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 10:00 A.M. Woven & Wonder: Morning Session, Sanctuary
11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Noon Bible Study, RM 307
2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
5:00 P.M. Woven & Wonder: Evening Session, Parlor & Sanctuary
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FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
12:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
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To learn more about our upcoming events and to register for classes, please visit ipc-usa.org.

Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Fund



THE BARBARA NOOJIN WALTHALL BIBLE STUDY FUND, was established by the Walthall family with a gift to the IPC Foundation following Barbara's untimely death from breast cancer at age 61 in 2002. Barbara was a leader at IPC, in the community, and in business.

This year's scholar, serving as Guest Preacher today, is Rev. Dr. Anna M. V. Bowden, Associate Professor of New Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Anna holds a PhD in New Testament and Early Christian Literature, a ThM in Hebrew Bible from Brite Divinity School, a MDiv from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a BA in Religion from Baylor University.

Anna has taught classes in religious studies, biblical interpretation, and biblical languages at Albion College, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Nazareth College, Monroe Community College, and Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

Rev. Dr. Anna M. V. Bowden, *Guest Preacher, Associate Professor of New Testament,
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary*

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

(11:00 a.m.) Kate Austin, Mabel Fleenor, Andrew Grover

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Janet Ort, soprano



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