

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Second Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. | HOLY COMMUNION

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Shepherd of the sheep, how wayward and wandering we are, how tender and true art Thou! How we need Thy pasturage, Thy still waters and Thy comforting presence! O leave us not, for Thou art fold and food and water and companionship and life. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

J.S. Bach

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

"In the beginning was the Word"

George Thalben-Ball

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us: and we behold his glory, full of grace and truth

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

(8:45 a.m.) The Shults Family

(11:00 a.m.) The Abbott Family

❖ HYMN 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanzas 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Clayton

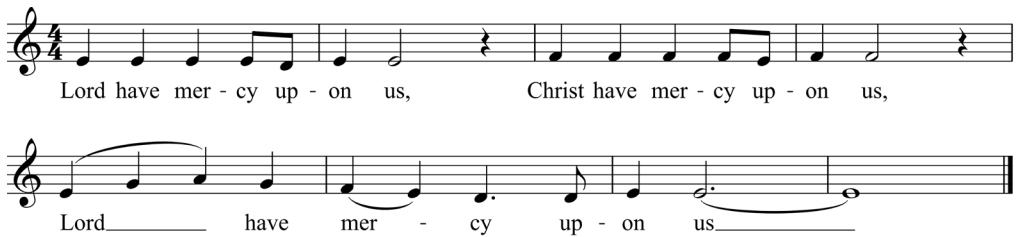
Emmanuel, you love us, but we do not love you fully. You call, but we do not listen. In these hectic days, we easily become wrapped in our own concerns. We rush by those in need and miss the sounds of heaven rejoicing. We are lost in a fever of busyness that has separated us from you. Confront us with our sin, that we may repent and receive the forgiveness that carries us home to you. In your name we pray.

A period of silence for personal confession.

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ KYRIE ELEISON

from *The Independent Service* by Dr. Jeff McLelland



❖ 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*



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

❖ *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

John 10:1-18

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 79

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ HYMN 187

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

BRADBURY

During the singing of this hymn, children may follow the acolyte down the center aisle. Children kindergarten to the 6th grade are invited to the Nativity Choir rehearsal, and children 4 years and younger will go to the Ground Floor for childcare.

SERMON

“Jesus the Good Shepherd”

Rev. Long

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

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

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.**

❖ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“And the Glory of the Lord” from Messiah

G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

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.

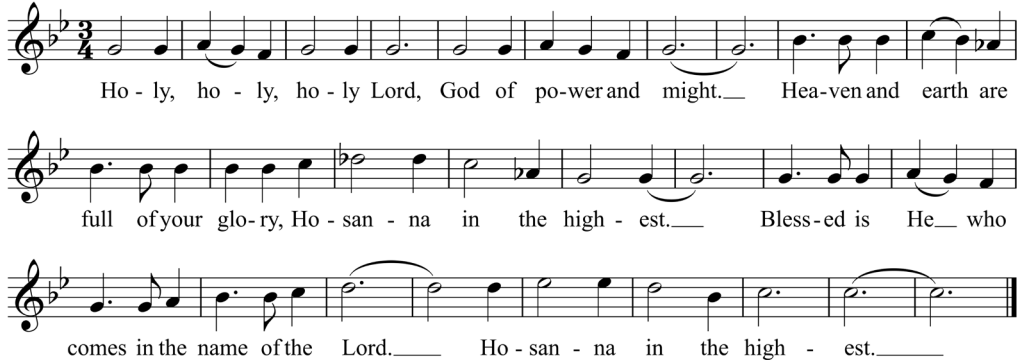
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

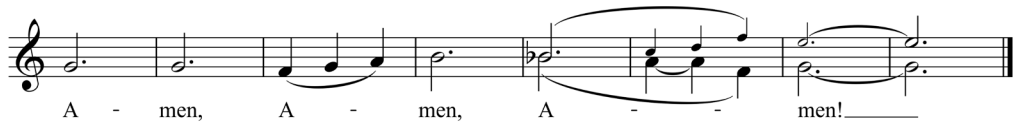


Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!____

AMEN

from The Independent Service

The minister continues in prayer, and then is sung:



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

“Rejoice in the Lord alway”

from Anonymous (16th cen.)

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Philippians 4:4-7

“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

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Sending

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

❖ HYMN 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts”

Camille Saint-Saëns

Flowers

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Lewis R. Timberlake**, U.S. Naval Air Corps, Lieutenant Junior Grade; received 14 decorations including the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, The President’s Citation, and the Philippines Liberation Medal; father of Don Timberlake.

Announcements

Children’s Nativity Choir Rehearsals

TODAY Rehearsals are Dec. 7, 14 & 21

Children (grades K5-6th) are invited to sing in the Children’s Nativity Choir on Dec. 24 at our Family Nativity Service. Rehearsals are during the 11 am worship service. Kids can follow the acolyte out to rehearse with Miss Beth. Parents pick up after the service in Room 113.

Advent Sunday School Class

TODAY RM 305/306 | 10:00 a.m.

Join us this morning for a combined Sunday school class with Dr. Jeff Leonard’s special Advent program titled “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus.” On Dec. 14 hear storyteller Dolores Hydock, and on Dec. 22, we move to the Great Hall for the annual Christmas Carol Sing.

For Sale in the Parlor

TODAY

After each morning service, find gift ideas that support IPC's mission and ministry. Purchase Giving Tree cards from the Children's Fresh Air Farm and Social Services; support IPC Youth Ministries by selecting an IPC Ornament, sweatshirt, or cookbook; and gift a choir CD or stained glass roundel.

IPC Choir Christmas Concert

TONIGHT 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

The IPC Choir presents its annual Christmas Concert, a cherished tradition of the season. Accompanied by 10 members of the Alabama Symphony string section, the program will include congregational hymns, choral anthems, and orchestral music of the Christmas season by composers including Jonathan Dove, Hugo Distler, Ola Gjeilo, William Bradley Roberts, and will end with the beautiful *Ave Maria* by Franz Biebl. Soloists will include Janet Ort, Jane Stump, and Willian Perira da Silva.

Wednesday Chapel & Lunch

Wednesdays in Advent | Noon | Chapel

Join us each Wednesday in Advent for a noonday Chapel service followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Please register for lunch (\$5) by noon on the Tuesday prior at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Advent Flowers

Final deadline: Monday, Dec. 8.

Honor or remember loved ones by making an Advent flower donation, which provides fresh flowers and greenery throughout the church during the Advent and Christmas season. Envelopes are available at the reception desk, or find the online giving form at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page. Names of loved ones will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Angel Tree

Return gifts by Wednesday, Dec. 10

Thank you for helping us spread Christmas cheer to more than 130 students at the Children's Fresh Air Farm. Please remember to return all gifts to Community Ministries by Dec. 10, unwrapped but accompanied by a roll of wrapping paper. For questions, contact Marion Dukes at (205) 623-2187 or mdukes@ipc-usa.org.

Beer & Carols

Monday, Dec. 15 | The Grocery (2823 Central Ave., Homewood) | 5:30-8 p.m.

Enjoy great food, festive libations, plenty of opportunities to sing along, and even a visit from Santa himself. The evening kicks off with children's music at 5:30 p.m., followed by classic carols for everyone starting at 7 p.m. Space is limited, and this merry night will sell out quickly, so please RSVP at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page!

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall
5:00 P.M. Youth Group, Garage
6:00 P.M. IPC Choir Christmas Concert, Sanctuary

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” Combined Class with Dr. Jeff Leonard, RM 305/306
 - Middle School Conference Meeting (Parents of 6th & 7th Graders), RM 105
 - Youth Sunday School (7th-12th Grade), RM 101
 - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
 - Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

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, DECEMBER 9

11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 301

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 A.M. Yoga, RM 301
10:30 A.M. Women at the Well, Garage
10:30 A.M. Caregiver Connect Support Group, RM 304
12:00 P.M. Advent Chapel & Lunch, Chapel
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
3:00 P.M. Grief Support Group, RM 304
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, DECEMBER 11

11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Noon Bible Study with Rev. Clayton, RM 307

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2

To learn more about our upcoming events and to sign up for classes, please visit ipc-usa.org.

Welcome

Thank you for joining us. 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.

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

Children's Fresh Air Farm: In memory of Edward Miller.

Food Pantry: In memory of Pat Pelham and Jackie Hall.

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.

2026 Pledge:

Make your annual pledge online by
texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and
following the steps.

Thank You for Your Gifts.

Questions on how to give can be directed
to Margaret Lane Hollingsworth at
mhollingsworth@ipc-usa.org.

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)

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*

Advent Wreath Lighting:

(8:45 a.m.) John, Liz & Michael Shults

(11:00 a.m.) Suzie & Joe Abbott and Boone & Sierra Abbott

Acolytes:

(8:45 a.m.) Caleb Siegel, Nathan Siegel

(11:00 a.m.) Heidi Hollingsworth, Palmer Gregg, Sutton Greg

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