

Independent Presbyterian Church
Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 24, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, burden bearer, opener of prison doors, comforter of the hearts of men, giver of life – I see Thee imaged full and clear in Jesus Christ. Help me to take all the rich gifts He has for me. And may I keep not one for myself, but receive to give away and giving away receive ever more abundantly. Amen.

from “Beginning the Day” by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE Joel Martinson

“Prelude, Scherzo, and Pastorale on *Abbot’s Leigh*”

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 George Thalben-Ball

“O praise God in his holiness”

O Praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Clayton

Minister: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

People: To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Minister: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

People: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Minister: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

People: Let us worship the living God! *Psalm 33*

* HYMN 403 UNSER HERRSCHER

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Lord Jesus, as you have come to us, let us now come to you. Our hearts are cold. Warm them with your selfless love. Our hearts are sinful. Cleanse them with your precious blood. Our hearts are weak. Strengthen them with your joyous Spirit. Our hearts are empty. Fill them with your divine presence. Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours. Possess them always and only for yourself. Amen.

St. Augustine

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."

* GLORIA PATRI (HYMN 581)GREATOREX

"Glory Be to the Father"

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Acts 12:1-17 (Pew Bible, p. NT100)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

ANTHEMFelix Mendelssohn

"How lovely are the messengers" from *St. Paul*"

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

adapt. Romans 10:15

SERMONRev. Long

"Wake Up"

The Response to the Word

* HYMN 66PENTECOST

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

*APOSTLES' CREED.....Rev. Newton

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy
catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.

* The Offertory Statement

* The Doxology (*HYMN 606*)..... OLD HUNDREDTH
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**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..... F. Melius Christiansen
“Beautiful Savior”

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming
spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and
honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be Thine. Now and forevermore
be Thine!
Joseph Augustus Seiss

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

The Sending

* HYMN 465 CONVERSE
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus!”

* BENEDICTION..... Rev. Long

* POSTLUDE David Ashley White
“Brewer’s Trumpet”

* *CONGREGATION STANDING*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! Please join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor immediately following the service where we can tell you more about our church. We look forward to meeting you! For more information, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clinton Williams Taylor. **THE FLOWERS** on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Leo King Cooper, Jr., Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army; husband of Carter Cooper; father of Kathryn Hill, Nancy Cooper, and John Cooper.

BRIDGES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SUMMER COOKOUT: Families are invited to join the class in the Garage after this morning's service for a simple meal of hotdogs, chips, cookies, and lemonade.

5 PM SUPPER & STORIES IN HIGHLAND HALL: Join us this evening to worship, share a meal, and hear stories about the rich history of the Table service and how the Spirit of God is at work in our Family of Faith.

THE IPC YOUTH FALL KICKOFF is this evening from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Blackjack Farm. Seventh graders through high school seniors can join us for Martin's barbecue, water activities, and games. Questions? Email Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org.

STAIR 3.0 TUTORS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed for the fall semester to work one-on-one with 3rd-graders at Hayes K-8 through our STAIR 3.0 program. Sessions are held Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:15–4:15 p.m., September 23 - December 17. This is an opportunity to make a lasting difference in a child's life while helping them strengthen their reading skills.

FAMILY CATECHESIS NIGHT: Families with elementary-aged children are invited to join us for Family Catechesis Night Wednesday, August 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the first floor with a light supper and time together in the Atria. Nursery care is available upon request. Sign up at ipc-usa.org; click on the Sign Up Links page under the Connect tab in the top navigation.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE: On Sunday, August 31, we will observe our Holiday Worship Schedule and gather for one morning worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday school and no Table worship service that morning.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN beginning September 3. Join us for a delicious dinner prepared by Kim Martin with options for adults and children, plus the salad bar. Find opportunities for all ages with adult classes, the Youth Grant Team, and Kids ROCK. Visit ipc-usa.org/worship/wednesday-nights for details and to reserve dinner.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: You're invited to our "Together Again" breakfast from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in the Great Hall. All are welcome to come enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship as we celebrate the first Sunday back on our regular schedule. Worship services will be held at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall. Please note, Sunday School classes will not meet on September 7 and will officially begin the fall semester on September 14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

MALAWI MEDICAL MISSION TRIP: All are invited to experience meaningful service, learn more about yourself, and engage with IPC's mission partners while making a difference in the world. This trip, designed for those with a heart for medical missions, will take place January 31 - February 10, 2026. For questions or more information, contact Rev. David Seamon at dseamon@ipc-usa.org.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, September 14, in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new church officers.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM: In honor of Marion Dukes. In memory of Richard David Roberts.

FOOD PANTRY: In memory of Anne Hauck and Pat Pelham.

IPC CHOIR: In memory of Pat Pelham.

SOCIAL SERVICES: In memory of Claude Baniakas.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed

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

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

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolyte: James Inscoe

Independent Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

www.ipc-usa.org