

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:** Please reach out by contacting Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org. **Visit our website:** ipc-usa.org/welcome

FLOWER DEDICATION: The flowers on the foyer table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark L. Miller.

IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the IPC Choir's annual Christmas Concert, a cherished tradition of the season. Accompanied by 10 members of the Alabama Symphony string section, the program will feature congregational hymns, choral anthems, and orchestral works by Jonathan Dove, Hugo Distler, Ola Gjeilo, William Bradley Roberts, and will conclude with Franz Biebl's beloved *Ave Maria*. Soloists include Janet Ort, Jane Stump, and Willian Perira da Silva.

ADVENT CHAPEL & LUNCH: Each Wednesday in Advent, gather in the Chapel at noon for a worship service followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Registration for lunch (\$5) is requested by noon on the Tuesday prior at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

ADVENT FLOWERS: Honor or remember loved ones by contributing to the Advent flower fund, which provide fresh flowers and greenery throughout the church during the Advent and Christmas season. **The deadline to contribute is tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 8.** Give online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

ANGEL TREE: Please return Angel Tree gifts by Wednesday, Dec. 10, to Community Ministries. Thank you for helping us share Christmas joy with more than 130 Children's Fresh Air Farm students. Gifts should be unwrapped but accompanied by a roll of wrapping paper. For questions, contact Marion Dukes at (205) 623-2187 or mdukes@ipc-usa.org.

ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 305/306 to hear storyteller Dolores Hydock. On Sunday, Dec. 22, the class will meet in the Great Hall for the annual Christmas Carol Sing. All are welcome to join these special Advent gatherings.

BEER & CAROLS: Join us on Monday, Dec. 15, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at The Grocery (2823 Central Ave., Homewood) for Beer & Carols. Enjoy great food, festive libations, children's music beginning at 5:30 p.m., and classic carols starting at 7:00 p.m.—plus a visit from Santa. Space is limited, so please RSVP at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page, and you can pre-purchase your dinner.

THE GIVING TREE is available through Dec. 22 as a meaningful way to give an alternative Christmas gift. By making a donation in honor of a family member, friend, teacher, or coworker, you can support IPC Social Services and the Children's Fresh Air Farm. Gifts may be purchased online or by contacting Catherine Sager in Community Ministries at csager@ipc-usa.org.

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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Stacy Pulliam
Member Engagement and
Assimilation Coordinator
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. David Seamon, Associate
Pastor
Brett Burcham, Acoustic Guitar
Eric Onimus, Bass Guitar
Carlos Pino, Electric Guitar

Jeff Lopez, Horns
Billy Gant, Drums
Caroline & Ed Thomas, Advent
Candle
Midge Miller, Advent Candle



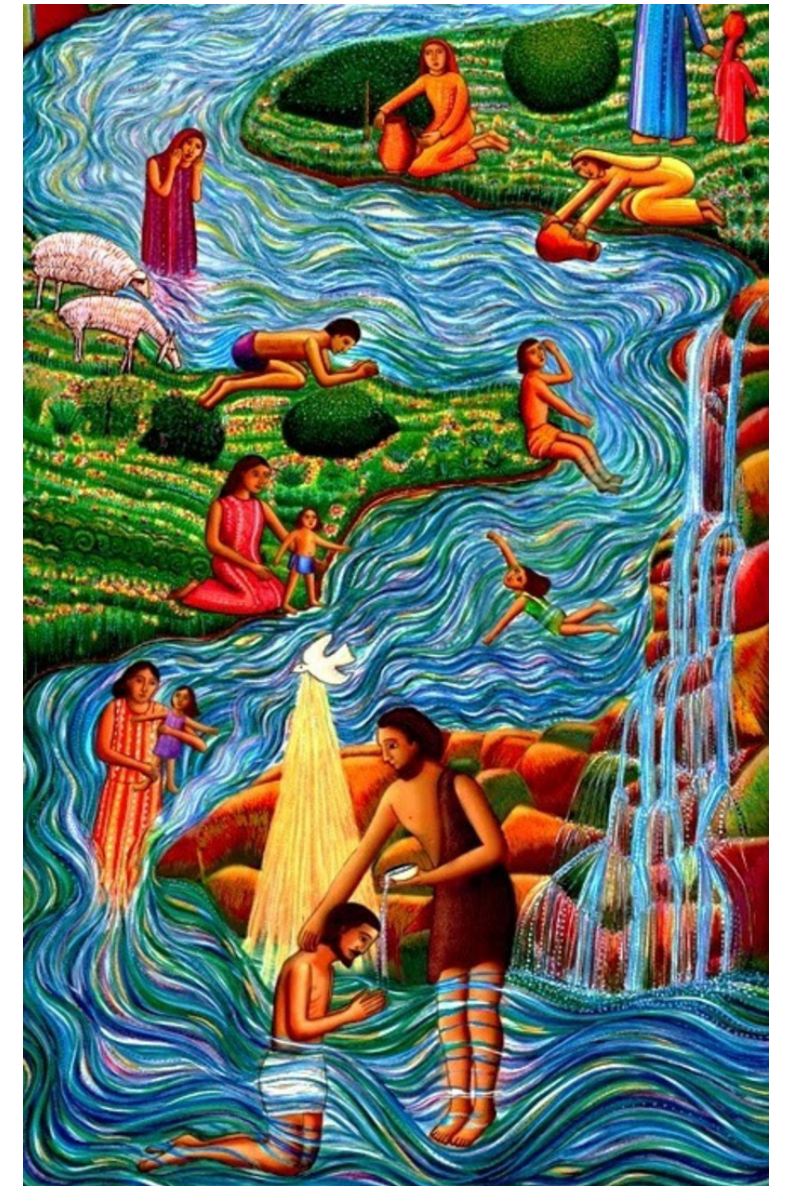
Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Phone: 205.933.1830
www.ipc-usa.org | www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

Cover: "River" by John August Swanson

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



DECEMBER 7, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Gathering Song

Welcome

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Opening Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Verse 1: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Verse 2: O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3: O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Repeat Refrain

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your kingdom.
Hear our prayer, O 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.”*

Holy Interruption

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 3:1-12

Sermon: “Repent!”

RESPONDING

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

Invitation to Discipleship

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 Whose Giving Knows No Ending”
- 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: “Trisagion”
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn

“Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Verse 1: Come, ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity, love and power.

Verse 2: Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God’s free bounty glorify
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Verse 3: Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry till you’re better,
You will never come at all.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 4: Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness he requireth
Is to feel your need of him.

Repeat Refrain

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.*