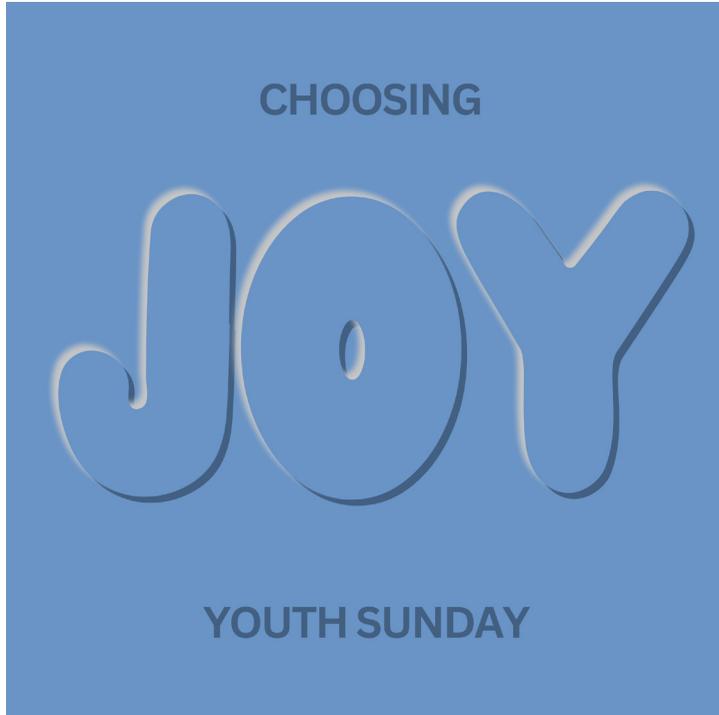


Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 15, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. | YOUTH 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, we look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church. All are invited to the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. To learn more about IPC or membership, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

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 worshiping with us today.

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. These few changes are meant to help make your observance of Lent more meaningful so that the glorious nature of Easter will be even more bountiful in your life.

The Gathering for Worship

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving God, we ask that you lift the burdens of shame and guilt that prevent us from experiencing the joy found in you. May your words, your love, and your joy fill us today as we encounter you through the voices of these youth. Be with us, O God. Draw us near, and then send us out to be sprinkles of joy in your world. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Johannes Brahms

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

(8:45 a.m.) **Joseph Scholl**

(11:00 a.m.) **Kate Austin**

Leader: Come and bring every worry and anxiety to God.

All: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Leader: Come with your questions, your doubts, and your hopes.

All: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Leader: For though the world hurts and the seasons change,

All: the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Leader: For in worship, we are renewed, restored, and reminded

All: that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Leader: Let us worship God.

SILENT PROCESSION

❖ HYMN 611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(8:45 a.m.) **Kate Austin**

(11:00 a.m.) **Shep Ray**

Dear Lord, we confess that we have fallen short.

Our world feels divided, and we're not always sure how to help.

In the middle of so much chaos, we lose sight of your vision of peace.

We get distracted by school, relationships, work, and politics.

When our anxiety gets loud, your voice can feel quiet.

The noise of our lives pulls our attention away from what really matters.

Forgive us for overlooking the needs of our neighbors.

Forgive us for hesitating when you call us to action, to joy, and to love.

Give us wisdom to see where the world is hurting.

Help us trust that you are holding our future, even when we can't see the way forward.

Soften our hearts, O God, and move us toward attention, courage, and generosity.

In Jesus' 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

(8:45 a.m.) **Kate Austin**

(11:00 a.m.) **Katherine Miles**

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

❖ THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **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."

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Ashworth

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(8:45 a.m.) **Oliver Middleton**

(11:00 a.m.) **Oliver Lyons**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

(8:45 a.m.) **Sam Meriwether**

(11:00 a.m.) **Andrew Grover**

John 16:16-24

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 85

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth” (Hymn 14)

DIX

Caleb Siegel, soloist

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.

SERMON

(8:45 a.m.) **Katelyn Long, Murphy Peterson, Macey Robinson**

(11:00 a.m.) **Katelyn Long, Ben Polson, Heidi Hollingsworth**

“Choosing Joy”

RECOGNITION OF SENIORS AND SENIOR ACOLYTES (11:00 A.M.)

Mrs. Ashworth

Leader: As you go from this place, remember us, and we will remember you.

People: As you go from this place, pray for us, and we will pray for you.

Seniors: As we go from this place, think of us, and we'll come back to visit soon.

Leader: We send you from this place to be the body of Christ in this world.

People: We send you from this place to be the church wherever you go.

Seniors: We are sent and equipped by love to participate in the mission of God in all that we do.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND SENIOR ACOLYTES

Emily Baird

Heidi Hollingsworth❖

Ben Polson

Mary Hanson Borders⬢

James Inscoe, Jr.❖

Macey Robinson⬢

Forrest Crawford

Katelyn Long ❖

Luci Smith

Willa Crescenzi

Oliver Lyons⬢

Alexa Stone

Sarah Garner

Oliver Middleton⬢

Darcy Stone

William Hardee

Mary Harbin Porter

Jack Turner

Bond Higgins, Jr.

Murphy Peterson

⬢ Class of 2026 Acolyte

❖ Class of 2026 Acolyte Captain

❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS (8:45 a.m.) Caleb Siegel
(11:00 a.m.) Caroline Hill

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

❖ Rise in body or spirit.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O Christ, Surround Me” (Hymn 543)

GREEN TYLER

Murphy Peterson, *soloist*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

(8:45 a.m.) **Nathaniel Siegel**

(11:00 a.m.) **Bob Pringle**

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

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

❖ **HYMN 769**

“For Everyone Born”

FOR EVERYONE BORN

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE**

Hymn Improvisation

Dr. McLelland

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Woodall.

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Don Herbert Maring, Sr., who joined the French Army at the beginning of WWI. He later transferred to the American Expeditionary Forces and joined General John J. Pershing’s staff as Chief Ordinance Officer. He was awarded the French Legion of Honor.

Announcements

Youth Sunday

TODAY | *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.

IPC Spring KidsROCK Musical

TODAY | *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.

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.

IPC Foundation Lunch & Learn

Thursday, March 19 | 11:30 a.m. | GHI

We are pleased to welcome Todd Garrett, President of Medical Missions. Lunch (\$10) will be served in Great Hall 1; the deadline to register is March 17.

Easter Memorial Donations

Deadline: Sunday, March 22

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

Palm Sunday, March 29

Join us for worship and communion at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall, with all children invited to the Palm Processional at the start of the 11:00 a.m. service. After 11:00 a.m. worship, gather in the IPC Courtyard and Rushton Park for our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

Save the Date

A Centennial Celebration of IPC's Sanctuary

Join us Sunday, April 12, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Sanctuary.

Instead of our usual three services, we will gather as a congregation for a single worship service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School will meet that morning at 10:00 a.m., and a congregational lunch prepared by IPC's Kim Martin will follow the 11:00 a.m. service. Online registration for lunch is open at ipc-usa.org.

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

Kirkwood Funds: (*Horizon Fund*)

In memory of Miss Jane F. Bennett, Mr. William F. Edmonds, and Mr. Donald "Randy" O'Cain.

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 H. Wolff 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)

This Week At IPC

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School:
Children's Spring Musical
In the Image, Highland Hall
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
12:00 P.M. High School Senior Graduation Luncheon
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 Dinner, ROJO

MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 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. Beer & Hymns, The Grocery

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

- 9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory 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
5:30 P.M. Session, Garage

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

- 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
4:00 P.M. Living After Loss Support Group, Offsite
5:30 P.M. Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

- 5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
5:30 P.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
5:30 P.M. Children's Spring Musical Celebration, 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

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- 11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
11:30 A.M. IPC Foundation Lunch & Learn, GHI
12:00 P.M. Noon Bible Study, RM 307
2:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

- 6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2
12:00 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308

CHIAPAS MISSION TRIP

SATURDAY, March 21-28

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

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

Mrs. Cammie Ashworth, *Director of Youth Ministries*

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

Acolytes:

(8:45 a.m.) Sam Meriwether, Nathaniel Siegel, Gavin Vanlandingham

(11:00 a.m.) Joe Jones, Helen Ray, Shep Ray

The Independent Presbyterian Church Youth



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