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## 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 to Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org). **Visit our website:** [ipc-usa.org/welcome](http://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.

**LENTEN CHAPEL & LUNCH:** Join us on Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 25–April 1) 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](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15:** Join us for our annual Youth Sunday as IPC youth (grades 7–12) lead the congregation in all three worship services. We will also recognize our high school seniors and acolytes during the 11:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary and hold a senior celebration lunch in the Great Hall at Noon. During the Sunday School hour at 10:00 a.m., children in 5K through 6th grade will present the Spring KidsROCK Musical, *In the Image*, in Highland Hall.

**BEER & HYMNS:** Come to The Grocery (2823 Central Avenue in Homewood) on Monday, March 16 for some old-timey hymns (and a few new ones) in a relaxed setting with good food and great company. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Music starts at 7:00 p.m.

**IPC FOUNDATION LUNCH & LEARN:** We are pleased to welcome Todd Garrett, President of Medical Missions, on March 19 at 11:30 a.m. He will share about the ministry's global impact and its long partnership with IPC. Lunch (\$10) will be served in Great Hall 1, and the deadline to register is March 17.

**EASTER MEMORIAL DONATIONS:** 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 today's bulletin and the online donation form can be found on the Sign Up Links page at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29:** Join us for communion and worship 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 service. After 11:00 worship, gather in the IPC Courtyard and Rushton Park for our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

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## 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 worship service. **Online registration for lunch is now open at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).**

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Lent as signified by the color purple, which symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice.

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## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

**Rev. Kevin J. Long**  
Pastor  
[kevin.long@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kevin.long@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. Susan A. Clayton**  
Associate Pastor, Congregational  
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**Rev. D. Nicole Newton**  
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**Rev. David J. Seamon**  
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**Cammie Ashworth**  
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**Beth Middleton**  
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**Stacy Pulliam**  
Member Engagement and  
Assimilation Coordinator  
[spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org)

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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

**Rev. Nicole Newton**, Associate  
Pastor

**Cammie Ashworth**, Director of  
Youth Ministries

**Sarah Mason**, Worship Leader  
**Brett Burcham**, Acoustic Guitar

**Eric Onimus**, Bass Guitar  
**Carlos Pino**, Electric Guitar

**Jeff Lopez**, Horns  
**Fred Rogan**, Steel Guitar

**Tommy Bowen**, Horns  
**Hayden Thomas**, Sound



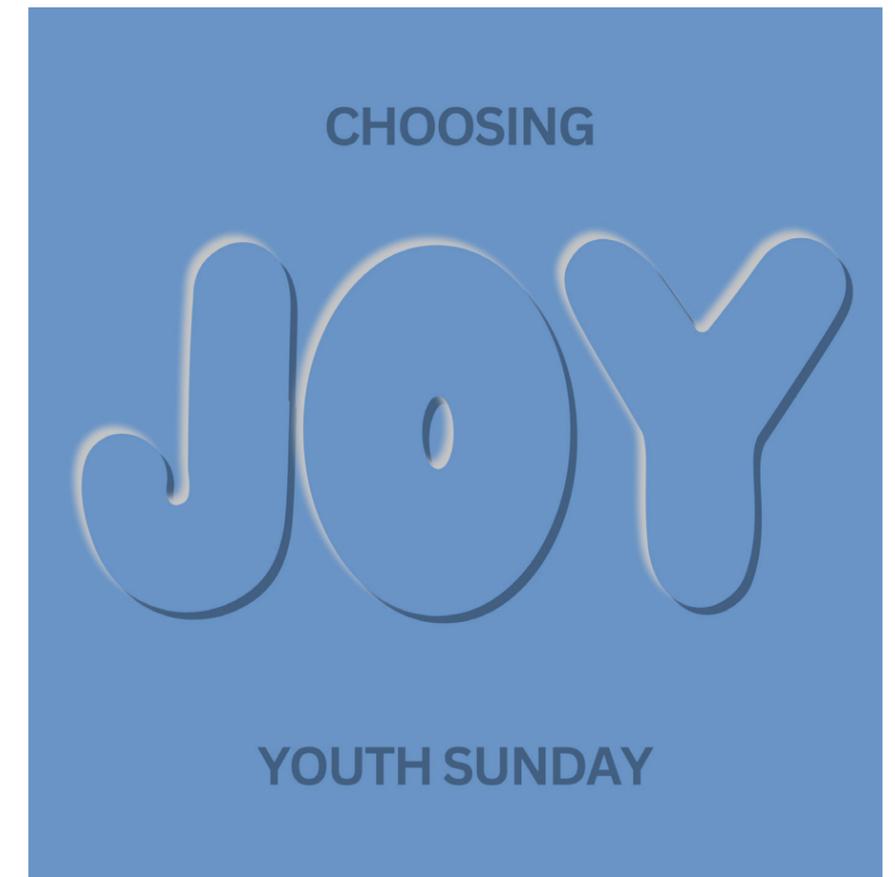
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### Independent Presbyterian Church

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

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



MARCH 15, 2026

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

# WELCOME TO THE TABLE

## GATHERING

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

### Prelude

### Gathering Song

*“Christus Victor (Amen)”*

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

*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.

### Opening Hymn

*“King of Kings”*

Verse 1: **In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
’Til from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt**

Chorus: **Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

Verse 2: **To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died**

*(Repeat Chorus)*

## LISTENING

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

### Prayer of Confession (unison)

*Bob Pringle*

**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.**

*Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.*

### Declaration of Pardon

*Griffin Mather*

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.”*

### 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

*Katelyn Long*

### Scripture Lesson: John 16:16-24

### Sermon: “Choosing Joy”

*Murphy Peterson, Macey Robinson, Ben Polson*

## RESPONDING

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

### Invitation to Discipleship

### Sharing of Gifts

*Caleb Siegel*

*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: *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*
- 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 *Nathaniel Siegel*

**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: *“It Is Well”*
- Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

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

### Closing Hymn

*“Amazing Grace”*

Verse 1: **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I’m found  
Was blind, but now I see**

Verse 2: **’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace, my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed**

Verse 3: **Through many dangers, toils and snares  
We have already come  
’Twas grace that brought us safe thus far  
And grace will lead us home**

Verse 4: **When we’ve been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we first begun**

### Benediction

### Postlude