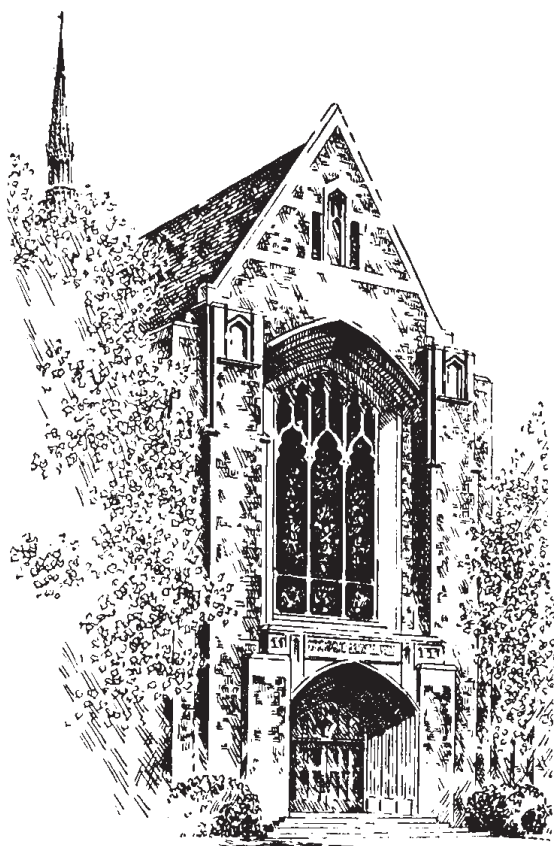


# Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 11, 2020

eleven o'clock

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We ask Thy peace, O Christ. The world gives a peace which we have tried. We seek Thine – the peace that compasses all the years, that defeats all the storms, that trusts where it cannot see, that keeps its face toward the light and goes quietly on.

*from Beginning the Day by Dr. Henry Edmonds*

PRELUDE - "Clair de Lune" .....Louis Vierne  
*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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Clayton

INTROIT - "Blessed be his glorious name for ever" .....George Thalben-Ball  
Blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory, Amen, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever. Happy are those who act with justice and do what is right!

People: **Remember us, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people. May we remember God our Savior who has done great things for us.**

*from Psalm 106*

\* HYMN 645 - "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" .....  
MIT FREUDEN ZART



1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -  
2. What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer - cy  
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief dis -  
4. Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud thy

- a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the  
keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's  
stress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, our  
prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my

God of our sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and  
watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of God's might, lo!  
peace and joy and bless - ing, as with a moth - er's ten - der hand God  
voice un-wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord my heart; both

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled:  
all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
gent - ly leads the cho - sen band:  
soul and bod - y take your part:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Unison:** We are anxious people living in anxious times. Lord, we want signs that you are leading us through these difficult times. When we fail to get the assurance we want, we confess we look elsewhere for comfort and confidence. We create idols and look for comfort from our stock markets and investments, but they are too shaky. Heal our anxieties. God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. 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

**Minister:** Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:  
**People:** In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

\* GLORIA PATRI (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.....Rev. Clayton

ANTHEM - "Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace" .....Richard Wienhorst  
Janet Ort, *Soprano*

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. Trust in the Lord forever, for in Him is strength; in the Lord our God is everlasting strength; for in the Lord our God is everlasting strength.  
*Isaiah 26:3-4*

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING LESSON - Exodus 32: 1 – 14

**Minister:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

SERMON - ANXIOUS BLESSINGS..... Dr. Wilkins

## The Response to the Word

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Rev. Seamon

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

*from the PCUSA "A Brief Statement of Faith"*

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please continue to remember to support the church. Even during this time when in-person attendance is limited, we do have basic necessary bills to cover. Offerings may be submitted online by clicking [here](#), by mail, or through the ShelbyNEXT app. As always, thank you for your gifts.*

\* The Offertory Statement

\* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....

OLD HUNDREDTH

\* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" .....

Eric H. Thiman

Janet Ort, *Soprano*

Jesus, the very thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast; But sweeter far Thy face to see, And in Thy presence rest. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the mem'ry find A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, O Savior of mankind. O Hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O Joy of all the meek, To those who fall how kind Thou art, How good to those who seek! But what to those who find? ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show; The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know. Jesu, our only joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be; Jesu, be Thou our glory now, And through eternity.

*Bernard of Clairvaux, tr. E. Caswall.*

### 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.**

## The Sending

\* HYMN 707 - "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" ..... HALL

1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;  
2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;  
3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;  
4 Take thou our selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;  
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;  
come thou with in our souls and claim thy throne;  
have in our in most souls thy perfect way;  
through our sur - ren - dered souls thy plans ful - fill.  
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;  
help us to shed a - broad thy death - less love;  
guard thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;  
We yield our - selves to thee: time, tal - ents, all;  
grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or thee.  
use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.  
guide thou our or - dered lives as thou dost please.  
we hear, and hence - forth heed, thy sov - ereign call.

\* CHARGE

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE - "Mit Freuden Zart" .....Ernst Pepping

\**Congregation standing*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF TODAY'S ONLINE VISITORS!

We would love to welcome you to our family of faith at IPC. Please provide contact information to contact Cindy Shaw at 933-3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org).

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry V. Graham; Miss Elinor Murdoch; Mr. and Mrs. Anson W. Allen; Mr. and Mrs. Donald N. Murdoch; Mr. Donald N. Murdoch, Jr.; and Mr. A. Allen Murdoch. THE FLOWERS on the War Memorial are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Warren St. John, Sr., First Lieutenant Air Force during Vietnam; husband of Irma St. John; and father of Warren St. John, Jr., Mary Claire St. John Butler, and Susanna St. John Davis.

### PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

**WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER:** Check our YouTube channel @ipcbirmingham or [www.youtube.com/ipcbirmingham](http://www.youtube.com/ipcbirmingham) each Wednesday for a Service of Morning Prayer. Led by our choir director and organist Jeff McLelland as well as various members of the IPC choir, this service offers a few minutes of serenity through prayer and music.

**WEDNESDAY PERSONAL PRAYERS:** The Sanctuary is open for a “come and go” personal prayer time on Wednesdays from 11:30-1:00. Please enter through the front doors of the Sanctuary, sign the register, wear a mask, and sit in the designated seating areas.

**HONOR REV. LUCY TURNER** by donating to a new IPC Foundation fund. Lucy has dedicated most of her more than 16 years at IPC to caring for our members when they need it the most. In honor of Lucy’s retirement, we are establishing a Pastor Care and Counseling Assistance Fund in the IPC Foundation to provide pastoral care and counseling for those in need. To donate, click on the Give link our website [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) and select "Lucy Turner Foundation Fund" from the fund dropdown.

### SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

**IPC CHOIR:** In memory of Merrill Eugene Compton, Jr.

**KIRKWOOD FUNDS:** (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds and Judge James H. Hancock, Sr. (*Life Care Fund*) In memory of Judge James H. Hancock, Sr.

### BAPTISM TODAY

**HILLIS MCNIEL PATTERSON**, born March 2, 2020, daughter of Joanne Long Patterson and Garrison Blake Patterson; granddaughter of Nancy and Nimrod Long III; Kathy Hillis Patterson; great-granddaughter of Mrs. Seaborn Wendell Hillis.

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### Participants in Today's Services

Dr. Jay Wilkins, Interim Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. David J. Seamon, Director of Missional Engagement  
Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts  
Ms. Janet Ort, Member of the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir  
**Acolyte:** Caroline Ellen Savage

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Dr. W. Stephen Goyer, Pastor  
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*This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
**[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)**