

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Advent



Vol. 49, No. 43

Second Sunday of Advent

Week of December 7, 2025



News & Events

Services of Advent Lessons and Carols this Sunday

We will hold two services of Advent Lessons and Carols this Sunday, December 7, at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services in the Nave. Come to celebrate the Advent season, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. See page 2 for more information.

PZ to Present Part 2 of His "Twilight Zone" Series December 11

Dean Emeritus Paul Zahl will present the second installment of his two-part series, *Christmas Hope from The Twilight Zone*, on Thursday, December 11, 7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House. PZ will show "The Messiah on Mott Street" (1969), one of the two episodes he considers the best of series creator Rod Serling's stories set during the Christmas season. See page 2 for details.

Third Wednesday Luncheon Is Early in December

The Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 10 (the second Wednesday of the month, a week earlier than usual), noon at Cranmer House. See page 2 for details.



A Word from Canon Pinter

In 1991 I was browsing a bookshop in Vancouver, British Columbia, when a musical piece began playing. It was simple, yet profound. Just two instruments played – a piano and a violin – and it felt like they were talking to one another. I had never heard it before, but I stood there transfixed for almost 10 minutes.

The piece is called *Spiegel im Spiegel* by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Pärt was born shortly before his country was invaded by the Nazis in World War II and then subsequently annexed by the Soviet Union. He came from a broken family, but he was consoled by music. When he was a boy, every Friday he would ride his bicycle around the town square while a weekly concert played over the public speakers.

He began playing music early in life and by his 40s was one of the Soviet Union's most acclaimed composers. After becoming a Christian in the 1970s, Pärt (in quiet

defiance of the Soviet Union's aggressively atheistic stance) based most of his music, whether instrumental or choral, on biblical or liturgical texts. As a result, in 1980 he and his family were expelled from Estonia, living in Vienna and Berlin before eventually returning to their homeland after the collapse of the USSR.

Today, Pärt is regarded by many as one of the world's greatest living composers. Distinctive to his work is the importance of silence. He uses silence (to quote Dr. Charles Kennedy) to create energy in his music, as demonstrated powerfully in pieces like "The Deer's Cry," St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer set to music.

I think Pärt's music is prayer. He has been one of the greatest teachers in prayer to me, helping me to listen for God's voice, especially in the midst of silence and quiet. As in his music, silence in prayer creates energy so that we can reply to God, powerfully, through the Holy Spirit. This Advent, may the energy of silence aid your prayer as we wait together.

- Dean

**"In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and trust shall be your strength."**

- Isaiah 30:15

This Sunday:

December 7, 2025

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Will Fagan

11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

Preacher: Will Fagan

We will livestream the 9:00 a.m. Nave service and the 11:00 a.m. service.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Advent in Advent* – Craig Smalley

Advent Themes (Chapter Room) – *It's the End of the World as We Know It... and I Feel Fine* – Jay Gardner

The Nativity Series of Giotto (Assembly Hall) – Cumbee Tyndal

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Advent at the Advent: Silent Night, Holy Night (Nothing Is Calm and Only the C9s Are Bright)* – Caroline Fuerniss

Children's & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd grade start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal for Children's Church. 4th grade through 6th grade and Jr. and Sr. High youth have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. See Sunday's worship bulletin for locations. The Nursery opens for our Infants, Toddlers, and 2s classes at 8:45 a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6 weeks-5 years during the 11:00 service.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



worship

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols



Seasonal Services to Be Held this Sunday

Each year the Cathedral Choir prepares music for our Advent Lessons and Carols services, which will take place this Sunday, December 7, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave. These services include prayers, lessons, and carol-anthems that celebrate the Advent season, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We hope you will join us for these services, and if you like the music you hear, we encourage you to purchase the choir's recording, *A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols*, available on CD in the Advent Bookstore.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 7, the Druhan family, Patrick and Lindsey, Frank (11th grade) and Sam (7th grade), will lead the lighting of the second candle on our Nave Advent wreath at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. service.

In the Refectory service, Adam and Eleanor Reaves and children will lead the lighting of the second candle on our Advent wreath at 9:00 a.m.

Lectionary

Sunday, December 7:

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering December 12

Caregivers are invited to a monthly lunch with others who have been impacted by the demands of caring for a loved one. The next gathering will be Friday, December 12, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you are a full-time caregiver or you are just beginning to experience changes in your life due to the health of a family member. To RSVP or for details, contact Robin Turner (Robin@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3500).



spiritual growth & fellowship

Christmas Hope from The Twilight Zone

PZ to Present Part 2 of His Series December 11

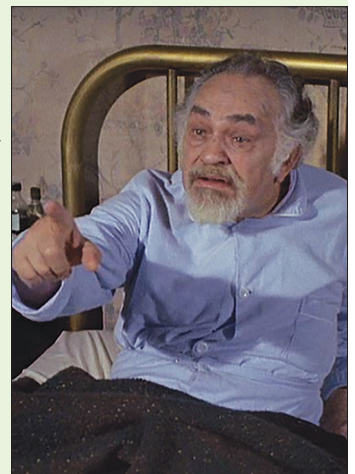
Dean Emeritus Paul Zahl wrote the following about his series "Christmas Hope from The Twilight Zone."

Rod Serling was born on December 25, 1924. Although he came from a secular Jewish background in upstate New York, he felt "imprinted" – in a good way – by his date of birth. He returned often – I mean, like 12 times – to a Christmas setting for his TV scripts throughout a long career.

One of the best of these, in my opinion, is "The Messiah on Mott Street" (1969), starring Edward G. Robinson (*photo right, from the episode*), made for Serling's series *Night Gallery*.

I will show this episode on Thursday evening, December 11, 7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House in Homewood (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209).

Maybe you know the episode already, maybe it's new to you. It is a poignant supernatural masterpiece, carrying the Christmas Hope like a hidden jewel box.



Also, "The Messiah on Mott Street" is IMO the zenith of Jewish-Christian assimilation in mainstream network history. There's been nothing like it before or since.

Please join me if you can on December 11. The program will start at 7:00 and finish a little after 8:00.

LUV, PZ

Ageless Adventers

Third Wednesday Luncheon Is on the Second Wednesday in December

Ageless Adventers will gather for a Third Wednesday luncheon on Wednesday, December 10 (the *second* Wednesday of the month, a week earlier than usual), noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Barbara Partridge will cook, and Dean Craig Smalley will speak.

Whether you are still active, newly retired, or have been enjoying flexibility for decades, you are welcome! So that we have an accurate count for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, December 5, to Robin Turner (205-226-3500, Robin@CathedralAdvent.com).

John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

- Matthew 3:11

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

- Romans 15:13

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Titus 2:11-13



serving & outreach

Lenten Lunches

Lunch Tickets On Sale this Sunday

Presales of Lenten Lunch tickets will continue this Sunday, December 7. Tickets will be available in Clingman Commons between the 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. services as well as the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services each Sunday through December 21. Tickets make great stocking-stuffers.

Behind the Scenes: Debbie Tiffin and Claire England



Thursday's Cornbread Dressing with Chicken was again a top seller at Lenten Lunches in 2025. However, Debbie Tiffin's Italian green beans and Claire England's made-from-scratch gravy were the "icing on the cake." You will again find the duo in the kitchen stirring up their goodness and bringing fun and laughter to all around. They are also always ready to lend an extra hand from filling cups of cranberry relish, mayonnaise, and salad dressing used on the To-Go line to finding space for trio salad plates in the refrigerator. Debbie and Claire (*l-r above*) are two of our many special volunteers making everything run smoothly. We appreciate their continued service to the Advent and especially to Lenten Lunches!

Local Outreach

Toy Drive to Support Oak Tree Ministries

We are holding a toy drive the first two weeks of December to support the work of Oak Tree Ministries in Gate City. Christmas in the Village supplies new toys for parents and grandparents of children in Gate City to shop at 90-percent off retail price. The proceeds contribute to the summer ministry programming at Oak Tree. There will be a table in Clingman Commons the next two Sundays, December 7 and 14, to drop off toy donations.

There are also opportunities for volunteers to serve by pricing and setting up the store on Saturday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 14, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to see a complete wish list, volunteer sign-up, and ways to donate treats to the cause.



worship

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Traditional Service to Follow Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" December 18

The Cathedral Choir will offer A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 18, 6:00 p.m. in the Nave. The service is modeled after the one held annually at King's College, Cambridge. The Christmas narrative is told through Scripture and song – a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Preceding the service at 5:30 p.m., the women of the choir will sing Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, accompanied by Diedre Agustin on the harp and conducted by Fred Teardo as an extended prelude. Britten's 1942 composition has become a musical tradition for choirs all around the world. It marries older texts – mainly Middle English and Latin – with music of a modern yet timeless character. All are warmly invited to join us for an evening of festive music and the gospel.

Welcome to Our Church Family!

We welcome our newest Advent members:

Jennifer Ard, Jimmy Ard, Whitney Lucas, Fort Robinson, Jay Robinson, Lauren Robinson, Libby Robinson, Sam Robinson, Alice Lawson Stallworth, Rosemary Turner, John West, Blake Wheeler.

If you are interested in joining the Advent or finding out more, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).



education

Thursday Morning Moms

Bible Study Taking a Break

December 11 will be the last meeting in 2025 of Thursday Morning Moms, a Bible study for moms with little ones. The study will resume Thursday, January 15, 2026. Thursday Morning Moms meets from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Living Room at the church with nursery available (though we also love having little ones with us!). New members are welcome to jump in at any time! Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511) with questions.

Food Drive for Glen Iris School Students

We are partnering with sister churches St. Mary's and St. Luke's to pack holiday supply bags for Glen Iris Elementary students during the Christmas holidays. We are collecting non-perishable food items this Sunday, December 7. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to see a list of needed foods.

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean

The Rev. Canon James "Jay" W. Gardner, III, Canon Pastor

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop of Alabama

The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean L. Pinter, Canon Theologian

The Rev. Canon Adam A. Young, Canon Missioner

The Rev. William J. Fagan, Curate

The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

Intercessory Prayer Available at

Advent House: Intercessory prayer is on-going through the Advent House Prayer Ministry. To schedule a prayer session at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Cathy and Mell Duggan

Jim Goyer: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Stephen G. Schaeffer

Sarah Britton Neal: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Stephen G. Schaeffer

The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Pastoral Care) by Don Sanders; Lynn and John Adams • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Randy and Rosemary Ham

Emedia Desiderio: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Samuel E. Urmev

In Thanksgiving for Ed and Barbara Partridge: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Lyn Lanier and Bobbi Lecznar



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 7 Regular worship schedule Advent Service of Lessons and Carols - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. - Nave	8	9	10 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday - Cranmer House - noon	11 PZ's <i>Christmas Hope from The Twilight Zone</i> - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	12 Caregiver Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	13
Dec 14 Regular worship schedule	15	16	17	18 <i>A Ceremony of Carols</i> - Nave - 5:30 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Nave - 6:00 p.m.	19	20

Monday-Friday: AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

Pastoral Notice: If you are going into the hospital, have need of prayer or counsel, or have a family member unable to attend church, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 205-226-3500.