

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Advent



Vol. 49, No. 44

Third Sunday of Advent

Week of December 14, 2025



News & Events

A Festival of Nine Lessons and 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. At 5:30 p.m., preceding the service, the women of the choir will sing Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, accompanied by harpist Diedre Agustin, as an extended prelude. *See page 2 for details.*

Christmas Service Schedule Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Family Service

Preacher: Will Fagan

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Nave)

Preacher: Dean Smalley

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Refectory)

Preacher: Canon Young

8:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Bishop Curry

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

See page 2 for a more detailed schedule.



A Word from the Vice Dean

I once saw a really cheesy magnet with an image of Jesus, standing with outstretched arms above the words, "Jesus is coming – look busy!" It was, of course, meant to be funny, but very likely also revealed a misguided underlying theology which would encourage the need for us to *do something* in order to repair whatever might be broken in our relationship with God.

During this season of Advent, there is indeed much talk and prayer about "preparing our hearts" for the coming of Jesus, and also about our "being ready" for Christ's return, which we're told will happen at an unexpected hour. So, how do we go about preparing our hearts and getting ourselves ready, if not by just "looking busy"? To which we turn to the apostle Paul!

The staff has recently been studying Paul's letter to the Galatian Church, and when describing the transformation that happens within the life of the believer, he advises that we "put on" the Lord Jesus

Christ. He says, "*for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ*" (3:27, NIV). This is actually a recurring theme throughout Paul's letters, and the entire Bible.

Beginning in Genesis, after the fall of Adam and Eve (when their eyes were opened to realizing they were naked), it says, "*The Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.*" Which is to say, the garments hid their shame, and were a sign of God's grace.

Later the Psalmist talks about God's priests being "*clothed with righteousness*," as well as Isaiah who describes God clothing him with "*a robe of righteousness*." When the Prodigal Son returns home, he is given the best clothing as a sign of his renewed sonship, and there are other examples. Suffice it to say that, in the Bible, clothing often points toward God's grace and a new beginning, and it's always a gift.

So, we know neither the day nor the hour when he will return. Are you ready? What are you wearing? Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ!

- Tom

All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- Galatians 3:27

This Sunday:

December 14, 2025

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Young

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Pinter

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) – *What's an "O Antiphon"?* – Dean Pinter

Commit to Failure this Advent Season (Living Room) – Jack Sharman

Merry Chiaroscuro-mas: The Gospel According to Caravaggio (Assembly Hall) – Margot Cooney
20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Advent at the Advent: Christmas Movies* (Grace for the Disgraceful) – Jay Gardner

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

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



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

On Thursday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Nave, the Cathedral Choir will offer A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, modeled after the service 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. During the service, a new arrangement of the carol *Thus Angels Sung*, commissioned by the St. Cecilia Fund of the Cathedral Church of the Advent and composed by Philip Moore, will receive its world premiere.

At 5:30 p.m., preceding the service, 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.

Whether you are on your way home from working downtown, or simply looking for an opportunity to hear some festive seasonal music and the gospel, you are all warmly invited to join us for this weeknight service.

Both *A Ceremony of Carols* and *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* will be livestreamed at AdventBirmingham.org/Live.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 14, the Yeager family, Andrew and Lisa, Nathaniel (7th grade) and Luke (1st grade), will lead the lighting of the third candle on our Nave Advent wreath at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. service.

In the Refectory service, the Israel Family, Whitt and Lucy, Annie (6th grade), Lilla (5th grade), Carl (3rd grade), and Thompson (1st grade), will lead the lighting of the third candle on our Advent wreath at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

•3:00 p.m. Family Service

Preacher: Will Fagan

Nursery for 2s class and younger

•5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Nave)

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Nursery for ages 5 years and younger

•5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Refectory)

Preacher: Canon Young

Nursery for ages 5 years and under

•8:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Nursery closed

•11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Bishop Curry

Nursery closed

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25

•10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

Nursery closed

The Cathedral Choir and organ, brass, and timpani will lead music at the 5:00 Nave, 8:00, and 11:00 services on Christmas Eve. The Advent Band will lead music at the 5:00 Refectory service.

Lectionary

Sunday, December 14:

Psalms 146:4-9

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Save the Date: The Middle to Meet January 22

And the favor of God was upon him.

Women in their 50s and 60s are welcome to join the next gathering of The Middle, when Darlene Pinter will lead a reflection on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas. Margaret Martin will host at her home (3402 Montevallo Road, 35213) on Thursday, January 22, 9:30-11:00 a.m. We will have crêpes and hot tea and coffee. Mark your calendars, and please let us know you're coming by emailing Heather McCalley (Heather.McCalley@gmail.com).

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

Local Outreach

Toy Drive to Support Oak Tree Ministries

We have the joy and opportunity to support the work of Oak Tree Ministries in Gate City by holding a toy drive this month. 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 this Sunday, December 14, to drop off toy donations.

There are also opportunities for volunteers to serve by pricing and setting up the store this 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.

Lenten Lunches

Lunch Tickets On Sale this Sunday

Presales of Lenten Lunch tickets will continue this Sunday, December 14. 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 this Sunday and next Sunday, December 21. Tickets make great stocking-stuffers.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Come to Advent House for Intercessory Prayer



The ministry of prayer at Advent House is for men, women, and couples who would like to come and request prayer for illnesses, broken relationships, losses, fears, doubts, or other difficulties in their lives. Prayer intercessors gather in the name of Jesus Christ and pray on behalf of each person who comes, trusting in and totally dependent upon the redemptive, restorative, healing, life-giving power of Christ Jesus.

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned – every one – to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* - Isaiah 53:4-6

If you would like to schedule a prayer appointment at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

Welcome to Our Church Family!

We welcome our newest Advent members:

Lewis Gayden, Sandy Gayden, and Jennifer Jones.

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



education

Youth Ministry

Thanks to Our Youth Volunteers

Thank you to all of the many volunteers who have met with our students week in and week out this semester in Sunday School and weekly morning Bible studies. This is a priceless investment in the students of our church, and Youth Ministry would not happen without you all! Weekly Bible studies will begin again the week of January 13, 2026.

Children's Sunday School



Above: Our 3rd graders took part in the annual tradition of children making ornaments for the Advent Christmas tree. Be on the lookout for these soon!

Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."
- Isaiah 35:4

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- Isaiah 35:10

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever.

- Psalm 146:4-5

You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

- James 5:8

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

transitions:

Marriage: Sara Elizabeth Frese and James Quinton Patton, on November 22

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Henry Goldthwaite Seibels, III: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Stephen G. Schaeffer

Sandee Ferguson: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Samuel E. Urmev

Sarah Britton Neal: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Frank A. Romanowicz

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Pastoral Care) by Miriam and Clay Morris • (Endowment Fund) by Linda and Don Zeh

The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Endowment Fund) by Maibeth Porter and Robert Eckinger

My Mom: (Mission and Outreach) by Robert Hornak

In Honor of the Townsend Family: (Mission and Outreach) by Charlie and Liz Scribner



Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150
for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017
6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes
to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT,
2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 14 Regular worship schedule	15	16	17	18 <i>A Ceremony of Carols - Nave - 5:30 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Nave - 6:00 p.m.</i>	19	20
Dec 21 Christmas Pageant at 9:00 a.m. Nave service No 9:00 a.m. Refectory service	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas services are listed on front page and page 2 Church office closed	25 Christmas Day Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27

Monday-Friday (No meeting December 25-26): 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.