



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



ELEVEN O'CLOCK
DECEMBER 14, 2025
The Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

WELCOME!

We are delighted to have you join us today.

If you are visiting and are interested in learning more about the Advent, please complete an information card (located in the pew rack in front of you) so we can get to know you better.

Except for hymns, page numbers listed in the bulletin refer to the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal.

The Lord be with you.



ADULT CLASSES

Adult Classes take place from 10:15 to 10:50 a.m. and will be available online at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

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

VOLUNTARY

Partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*

Georg Böhm

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 76

Winchester New

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE SIT.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say 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." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And 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. (35:1-10)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY *Anglican Chant:* William Crotch

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord,
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
- 2 For he hath regarded
 the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold from henceforth
 all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
 and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him
 throughout all generations.

6 He hath showed strength with his arm;
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.
 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.
 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
 as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

-Luke 1:46-55

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 65

Bereden väg för Herran

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (11:2-11)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Canon Pinter

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

-Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

-John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

-1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

-1 John 2:1-2

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME AND OFFERTORY SENTENCE ANTHEM

arr. Malcolm Archer

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

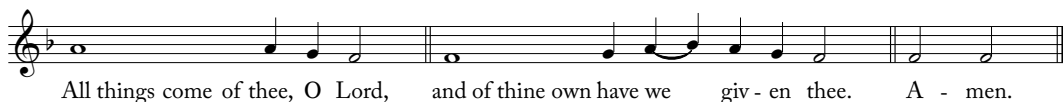
For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away,
Like flow'rs that wither and decay

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

-Charles Coffin, tr. John Chandler

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952) composed this hymn-anthem on the famous Advent hymn, *On Jordan's Bank*. Here, the traditional tune of *Winchester New* is sung, but not with the Charles Winfred Douglas translation found in our hymnal and familiar to our congregation. The text speaks of John the Baptist who was called to prepare the way of the Lord: "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (John 1:23)

THE PEOPLE STAND.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

page 333

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. *[A proper preface is added here.]* Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

THE PEOPLE SING:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL OR SIT, AS THE CELEBRANT CONTINUES WITH THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again...

...through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

INTERCESSORY PRAYER IS AVAILABLE IN THE REAR OF THE NAVE.

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion. You may receive at the rail or the station. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms across your chest after receiving the bread. To receive the wine, you may drink from the cup or dip the bread in the small vessel inside the cup. (If you are not baptized but would like to be, please see one of the ministers following the service.)

Never weather-beaten Saile more willing bent to shore,
 Never tyred Pilgrims limbs affected slumber more;
 Than my wearied spright now longs to flye out of my troubled brest:
 O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soule to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heaven's Paradise,
 Cold age defes not there our eares, nor vapour dims our eyes:
 Glory there the Sun outshines, whose beames the blessed only see:
 O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my spright to thee!

-Thomas Campion

Thomas Campion (1567-1620) was a contemporary of the famous lutenist and composer John Dowland. Campion was not only a musician but also a poet, writing both music and text for his “ayres” (songs). Campion’s much-loved “Divine Song” *Never weather-beaten Saile* comes from the first of *Two Bookes of Ayres*. It was popular as a hymn into the eighteenth century. The text, though originally written from the perspective of a weary pilgrim hoping to achieve heaven as a goal, is particularly fitting for Advent, calling on the Lord to “come quickly.”

HYMN NO. 75

Ascension

Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 72

Richmond

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Conditor alme siderum, from *Canticum*
(Creator of the Stars of Night)

Naji Hakim

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Dice K. Lineberry

by Lynda Lineberry

John Hamilton Schuler

Elizabeth Locke Schuler

by their Children

Barbara Quick Hickman

by Valerie H. Merrill

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Smith

AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Madeline Ennis Everette

by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Everette, III

CLERGY

For email addresses and phone numbers, please see our staff listing at AdventBirmingham.org.

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley	<i>Dean and Rector</i>
The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray	<i>Vice Dean</i>
The Rev. Canon James “Jay” W. Gardner, III	<i>Canon Pastor</i>
The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean L. Pinter	<i>Canon Theologian</i>
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The Rev. William J. Fagan	<i>Curate</i>
The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl	<i>Dean Emeritus</i>

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Charles Gaston	Wil Bromberg	Lindsey Druhan	
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Jason Wallace	Thomas Nelson	Will Thuston	
Forsyth White	Drew Wright	Chris Weingartner	

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Eldon Brummett, Drew Foster, Juan Mazuca, Kevin Moore, Gary Talley	<i>Sexton Staff</i>

*Come to me,
all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

The Church of the Advent was founded with the City of Birmingham in 1872.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT (EPISCOPAL)
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205 251-2324 | ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG