



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



NINE O'CLOCK
DECEMBER 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Morning Prayer and Christmas Pageant

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES

3K – Room 104

4th Grade – Room 307

4K – Room 105

5th Grade – Room 310

Kindergarten – Room 213

6th Grade – Room 311

1st Grade – Room 214

7th-8th Grade – The Undercroft

2nd Grade – Room 216

9th-12th Grade – Lower Morton Meeting Room

3rd Grade – Room 218

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) – *Ero Cras: Tomorrow I Come* – Dean Pinter

The Thrilling Monotony of Christmas (Assembly Hall) – Gil Kracke

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Don't Throw Your Tree Out on Friday!*
(*Enjoying This a Minute Longer*) – Elizabeth Fagan

MORNING PRAYER

page 37

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on *Veni Emmanuel*

Edward Bairstow

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The candles will be lighted by the Norwood family: Charlie and Kelley, Ellis, Sellers, and Louise.

People: **Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

-John 8:12

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 56 (v.v. 1-4)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

OPENING SENTENCES

Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

-Mark 13:35-36

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

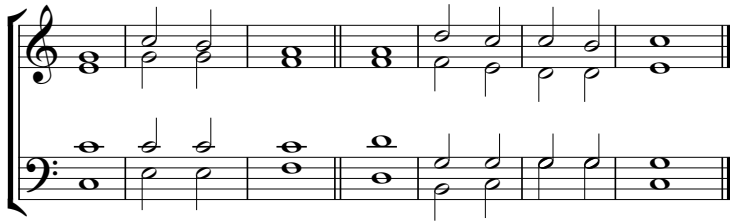
Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

People: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

INVITATORY: VENITE WITH CHORAL ANTIPHON

Richard Goodson



Choral Antiphon: *Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore him.*

THE CHOIR SINGS AN OPENING ANTIPHON, THEN THE CONGREGATION SINGS:

- 1 O come let us sing | unto the | Lord :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of | our sal|va|tion.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with | thanks|giving :
and show ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God :
and a great | king a|bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the corners | of the | earth :
and the strength of the hills is | his | al|so.
- 5 The sea is | his and • he | made it :
and his hands pre|pared the | dry | land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down :
and kneel before the | Lord our | ma|ker.
- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God :
and we are the people of his pasture * and the | sheep of | his | hand.

8 O worship the Lord in the | beauty • of | holiness :

let the whole earth | stand in | awe of | him.

9 For he cometh * for he cometh to | judge the | earth :

and with righteousness to judge the world * and the | peoples | with his | truth.

-Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

THE PEOPLE SIT.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE PEOPLE STAND.



1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers! And let your lights ap - pear;
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil;
3. O wise and ho - ly vir - gins, Now raise your voic - es higher,
4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.
 Un - til in songs of tri - umph Ye meet the an - gel choir.
 A - rise, thou Sun so longed for, A - bove this dark-ened sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he will draw nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, The gates wide op - en stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.
 Go meet him as he com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry! The Bride-groom is at hand.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion, And ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, alt.; Music: Johann Michael Haydn

THE PEOPLE SIT.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

FROM THE GOSPELS ACCORDING TO LUKE AND MATTHEW, WITH SELECTIONS FROM THE BOOKS OF THE
 PROPHETS ISAIAH AND DANIEL.

THE WELCOME AND BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADERS CAN DEPART FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING THE SINGING OF THIS HYMN.
CHILDREN SHOULD WALK DIRECTLY TO THE GYM TO MEET THEIR TEACHERS.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 54

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

THE SERMON

Mary Ann McCarty

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM

John Tavener

God is with us.

Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The people that dwell in the shadow of death,
upon them the light has shined.

For unto us a child is born,
for unto us a son is given,

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,
And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.

God is with us. Christ is born.

-Isaiah 9:2, 6; adapted from the Orthodox Great Compline for Christmas Eve

John Tavener (1944-2013) is well known for the influences of Orthodox church music on his own compositions.
This is heard in *God Is With Us*, an anthem that joyfully proclaims the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

CLOSING PRAYERS AND THE BLESSING

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 56 (vv. 5-8)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

IF YOU DESIRE, KNEEL FOR A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER.

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter

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

John M. Cahill

by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson R. Sharman, III

Valentine Smith Yarbrough

by Hatton C.V. Smith

Evie J. Ebbinghouse

by Richard Ebbinghouse

James Edward Tyndal

Mary Kathryn Wilson

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>
The Rev. Canon Adam A. Young	<i>Canon Missioner</i>
The Rev. William J. Fagan	<i>Curate</i>
The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl	<i>Dean Emeritus</i>

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

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<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>Junior Warden</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2026</i>	<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2027</i>	<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2028</i>	
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Kelly Hulsey	Parker Evans	Jen Green	
Claiborne Morris	Sam Everette	Glynn Lassiter	
Emily Pruet	Julia King	Mike Lucas	
Charlie Sharp	Bailey Knight	Kate Ray	
Jason Wallace	Thomas Nelson	Will Thuston	
Forsyth White	Drew Wright	Chris Weingartner	

STAFF

Margot Cooney	<i>Associate for Youth and Families</i>
Tara Davis	<i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>
John Mark Haase	<i>Boys Youth Associate</i>
Leslie Housman	<i>Director of Women's Ministry</i>
Charles Kennedy	<i>Associate Director of Music</i>
Gil Kracke	<i>Director of Programs and Parish Life</i>
Kathy Logue	<i>Advent House Coordinator</i>
Mary Ann McCarty	<i>Director of Youth Ministry</i>
Gunter Owens	<i>Associate Director of Children's Ministry</i>
Fontaine Pope	<i>Director of Small Groups and Newcomers' Coordinator</i>
Frederick Teardo	<i>Director of Music and Liturgy</i>
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Arturo Davis	<i>Assistant Building Manager</i>
Rachel DeSanto	<i>Deans' Assistant and Finance Associate</i>
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Anita Gray	<i>Programs and Outreach Administrative Assistant</i>
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Beth Anne Maier	<i>Accounts Receivable</i>
Chris Maxwell	<i>Communications Associate</i>
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Robin Turner	<i>Pastoral Care Coordinator</i>
Dorothy White	<i>Director of Finance and Administration</i>
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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