



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



ELEVEN O'CLOCK
DECEMBER 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Morning Prayer

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) – *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

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on *Veni Emmanuel*

Edward Bairstow

THE PEOPLE STAND.

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

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

OPENING SENTENCES

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. -*Isaiah 40:3*

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.

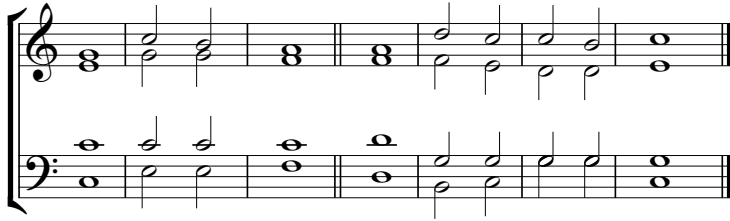
Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

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.

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep;
shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.
 - 2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses,
stir up thy strength, and come and help us.
 - 3 Turn us again, O God;
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
 - 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?
 - 5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears,
and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
 - 6 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 - 7 Turn us again, thou God of hosts;
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
 - 17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand,
and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.
 - 18 And so will not we go back from thee:
O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.
 - 19 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
- As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1:1-7)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (1:18-25)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 54

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

THE SERMON

Vice Dean Murray

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

THE PRAYERS

page 54

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.

SUFFRAGES

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

People: And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

People: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: For only in thee can we live in safety.

Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant: Let thy way be known upon earth;

People: Thy saving health among all nations.

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE COLLECTS

pages 56-57

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME AND OFFERTORY SENTENCE 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 PRAYER AND 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. 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

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

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The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray	<i>Vice Dean</i>
The Rev. Canon James “Jay” W. Gardner, III	<i>Canon Pastor</i>
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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>

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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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