

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Epiphany



Vol. 50, No. 2

First Sunday After the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord

Week of January 11, 2026



News & Events

A Service of Epiphany Light January 15

The Cathedral Choir will offer A Service of Epiphany Light on Thursday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. The service will feature lessons and Epiphany carols in a manner much like our lessons and carols services during the Advent season. See page 2 for details.

Men to Serve at Brother Bryan Mission

Advent men will provide dinner and assist in leading worship at Brother Bryan Mission on Sunday evening, January 25. We will gather at 5:00 p.m., serve dinner at 5:30, and join in worship at 6:30 p.m. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) to see how you can take part. See page 2 for details.

New Choir Video Available on Website

The Cathedral Choir recently made a video recording for AdventWord, an online devotional of the Episcopal Church. The choir recorded Cecilia McDowell's setting of *O Oriens*. The video is up on our website, AdventBirmingham.org. See page 3 for more information.



A Word from the Dean

This year I've softened toward New Year's Resolutions.

My resistance, at least I believe, was theological and experiential, believing that the agent of change comes into us, from God, from grace, rather than from within us, from will-power, from the law. And the detritus of failed resolutions to make ourselves better, different, that certainly played a role too.

So why do I feel differently in this moment? Not because I'm anticipating different results from myself or from others, but because I believe this longing can represent something that is deeply Christian: hope. The author of Hebrews notes, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Hope, as Paul notes, moves with faith and love, and these powers of God do change us and the world around us, enabling us to abide in a reality greater than what merely exists on the surface. We exist and belong to something larger, more redemptive, reconciling.

We abide in something greater; hope is grounded in substance.

In November 1989, what was Soviet-Bloc Czechoslovakia experienced what came to be known as the Velvet or Silent Rebellion. Without violence, in the span of slightly over a month, more than 40 years of Soviet rule was overthrown. Vaclav Havel, author, poet, and playwright, became the president, and when asked how it was possible, responded:

"We had our parallel society. And in that parallel society we wrote our plays and sang our songs and read our poems until we knew the truth so well that we could go out to the streets of Prague and say, 'We don't believe your lies anymore'—and communism *had* to fall."

The various -isms, political, philosophical, cultural, artistic, moral—Stoicism, Cynicism, Romanticism, Realism, Pragmatism, to name a few—see in a mirror dimly. The same is true, of course, for you and me. But we have hope, we gather, we hear again the message of the gospel, we sing our songs, we love one another in the love that has been given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Change is possible.

- Craig

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

This Sunday:

January 11, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Holy Baptism

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

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) – *The Unforced Rhythms of Grace* – Craig Smalley

Mundane Apocalypses (Living Room) – *What's New About the New Year?* – Wilson Hunter

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Before You Turn 40: False Gods and Your Brain's Librarian* – Jack Sharman

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 Service of Epiphany Light

Lessons and Epiphany Carols on January 15

In celebration of Epiphanytide, the Cathedral Choir will offer A Service of Epiphany Light on Thursday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This special service will feature lessons and Epiphany carols in a manner much like our lessons and carols services during Advent season. Whether you are on your way home from working downtown, or simply looking for an opportunity to hear some seasonal music and the gospel, all are warmly invited to attend this weeknight service.

The service will be livestreamed from our website at [Advent Birmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live).



serving & outreach

Men's Ministry

Men to Serve at Brother Bryan Mission

Advent men will provide dinner and evening-prayer worship at Brother Bryan Mission on Sunday evening, January 25. We will gather at 5:00 p.m. to set up the meal, serve at 5:30 and join in fellowship with the 70 men in the program, and then assist in leading the worship service at 6:30. Our own Franklin Bradford will preach, and music will be led by Stephen Greene and Ben Nye. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3519) to see how you can take part.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Club 456

Next Gathering for 4th-6th Graders Is this Sunday

The next Club 456 will be this Sunday, January 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the home of Margot Cooney (2808 Cherokee Road, 35223). Club 456 is a monthly gathering for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders on Sunday evenings that includes dinner, Bible study, and fellowship. Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Ageless Adventers

Next Third Wednesday Luncheon Is January 21

Ageless Adventers will gather for a Third Wednesday luncheon on Wednesday, January 21, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209).

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, January 16, to Robin Turner (205-226-3500, Robin@CathedralAdvent.com).

Parish Meeting Set for January 25

The annual Parish Meeting of the Cathedral Church of the Advent will be held Sunday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. At the meeting, parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve on the Vestry of the Advent. The nominees are as follows:

Debbie Brazeal
Anne-Marie Brown
Mell Duggan
Cardwell Feagin
Brooke Fleming
Beth Flowers
Charlotte Getz
Kelly Hargrove
Connor Herfurth
Perry Keel
Tommy Kitsmiller
Anne Lynn Langloh
Tommy Mayfield
Clay Morris
Dan Price
Murray Priester
Frank Taylor
Jim Williams
Clay Wilson
Key Yeilding

The meeting will also include Dean Smalley's address to the Parish, a report from the Treasurer, and a word from the Senior Warden.

Welcome to Our Church Family!

We welcome our newest Advent member: Phillip Gewin.

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

Offering Envelopes Available

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2026 pledge card, you can pick them up in Clingman Commons. Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number.

Contact Beth Anne Maier with questions (BethAnne@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3517).

Women's Ministry

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).

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
- Mark 1:14-15



making music

The Cathedral Choir

New Choir Video Available on Our Website



Our Cathedral Choir was asked to make a video recording for AdventWord, an online devotional of the Episcopal Church, and the recording was featured on @TheEpiscopalChurch's page on several various social media platforms. The choir recorded Cecilia McDowell's setting of *O Oriens*, the "O Antiphon" appointed for December 21, which is the day the video was released.

The video is now up on our website, AdventBirmingham.org. Please take a few minutes to listen to the choir's wonderful work!



education

Come and See

Women's Bible Study to Resume January 14

Come and See, the women's Bible study of the Gospel According to John, will resume Wednesday, January 14. Led by Margot Cooney, this group meets on Wednesday mornings at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Thursday Morning Moms Bible Study Returns January 15

Thursday Morning Moms, our Bible study for moms of young children, will resume on Thursday, January 15, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Meeting weekly in the Living Room, the group is currently studying Genesis. Nursery care is available, but we are also glad to have little ones join us! New members are welcome to jump in any time. Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511) with any questions.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- Isaiah 42:1-3

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- Matthew 3:16-17



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Rooted's Hannah Dow to Speak January 29

Join us on Thursday, January 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the home of Sister Clapp for light snacks, conversation, and a helpful word from Hannah Dow, Executive Director of Rooted Ministry.

Hannah's talk, *Truth in Trial*, will draw from various Scripture passages and the ways the Lord has ministered to her through them during periods of suffering.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Women for complete details and to register.



worship



Christmas Pageant

The Advent's Christmas Pageant was held December 21, and the 5th and 6th graders took to heart sharing the greatest story ever told: the story of Jesus' birth. What a beautiful reminder of the hope and joy found in Christ Jesus. Thanks to the cast and to all who made the pageant happen!



Lectionary

Sunday, January 11

Psalm 29

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

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 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:

Ann C. Johnston: (Endowment Fund) by Borden and Lucy Burr

Harry "Gould" Barrett: (Endowment Fund) by Benny and Lynn LaRussa

Henry Goldthwaite Seibels, III: (Men's Ministry) by Mr. and Mrs. Greg Curran

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Endowment Fund) by Charlie Browne; Shirley T. Marks • (Pastoral Care) by Ami and Chris Shell; Mr. and Mrs. Greg Curran

The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Endowment Fund) by Judith Russell; Craig Boudreaux

Ferdinand David Arn: (Mission and Outreach) by Patricia Carroll



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 11 Regular worship schedule Club 456 - 2808 Cherokee Road - 4:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15 A Service of Epiphany Light - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	16	17
Jan 18 Regular worship schedule	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church office closed	20	21 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday - Cranmer House - noon	22	23	24

Monday-Friday (No meeting January 19): 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.