



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



5:30 P.M.

JANUARY 15, 2026

A Celebration of Epiphany Light

VOLUNTARY

Psalm Prelude, Set 2, No. 2

Herbert Howells

*"Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day;
the darkness and light to thee are both alike." -Psalm 139:11*

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 119

Dix

Officiant: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

A PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PHOS HILARON

Charles Wood

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured,
Who is th'Immortal Father, Heavenly, Blest,
Holiest of Holies Jesu Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue, Son of our God, Giver of life alone;
Therefore in all the world thy glories Lord, they own.

-John Keble

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.**

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 FIRST LESSON

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lux,
calida gravisque
pura velut aurum
et canunt angeli molliter
modo natum.

*Light,
warm and heavy
as pure gold
and the angels sing softly
To the newborn baby.*

-Edward Esch; Latin trans. Charles Anthony Silvestri

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-17

The Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

O Oriens,
 Splendor lucis aeternae,
 et sol justitiae:
 Veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris,
 et umbra mortis.

*O Orient,
 Brightness of the Eternal Light,
 and Sun of Righteousness:
 Come and lighten those that sit in darkness,
 and in the shadow of death.
 -Salisbury Antiphony*

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Three Kings

Healey Willan

“Who knocks tonight so late?”
the weary porter said.
Three kings stood at the gate,
each with a crown on head.

The serving man bowed down,
the Inn was full, he knew.
Said he, “In all this town
is no fit place for you.”

A light in the manger lit;
there lay the Mother meek.
This place is fit.
Here is the rest we seek.

Come, come. They loosed their latchet strings,
so stood they all unshod
“Come in, come in, ye kings,
and kiss the feet of God.”

-Laurence Housman

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 128

Three Kings of Orient

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
 Lead thou me on;
 The night is dark, and I am far from home,
 Lead thou me on.
 Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
 The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
 Shouldst lead me on;
 I loved to choose and see my path; but now
 Lead thou me on.
 I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
 Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
 Will lead me on
 O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
 The night is gone,
 And with the morn those angel faces smile,
 Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

-John Henry Newman

THE FIFTH LESSON

Psalms 139:1-11

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will

cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee.
The darkness is no darkness with thee,
but the night is as clear as the day.
The darkness and the light, to thee, are both alike.
God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
O let my soul live, and it shall praise thee,
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forevermore.

–Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 139:11, 1 John 1:5, and Psalm 119:175

THE SIXTH LESSON

John 8:12-20

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.”¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.”¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MOTET

Lucy Walker

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes preces que sumere.

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
With loving-kindness deign to receive
Suppliant praise and prayer.*

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es properditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis. Amen.

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
For the sake of the lost,
Grant us to be members
Of thy blessed body. Amen.*

-Office Hymn for Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 490

Houston

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME

MOTET

Johann Sebastian Bach

O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht
Mein Hort, mein Trost, mein Zuversicht,
Auf Erden bin ich nur ein Gast
Und drückt mich sehr der Sünden Last.

*O Jesus Christ, my life's light
My refuge, my comfort, my confidence,
On earth I am only a guest
And the burden of my sins weighs heavily upon me.*

-Martin Behm

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 117

Morning Star

VOLUNTARY

Johann Sebastian Bach
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BWV 739

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>

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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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