



**CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**  
**IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

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NINE O'CLOCK

*in the Nave*

MARCH 15, 2026

*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

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.

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## CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES

3K – Room 104

4th Grade – Room 307

4K – Room 105

5th Grade – Room 310

Kindergarten – Room 213

6th Grade – Room 306

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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Audio).*

**The Dean's Class** (Refectory) – *Listening to Matthew Through the Church Year* – Dean Pinter

**The Inquirers' Class** (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Baptism* – Jay Gardner

**Biblical "Barrenness"** (Living Room) – *God's Hope in the Matriarchs* – Derrill McDavid

**20s and 30s Class** (Lower School Library) – *How Do Sunday Mornings Get to the Heart of Things?*  
– Will Fagan

**Grace in the Rubble** (Assembly Hall) – *Help in Suffering* – Marshall Malone

## VOLUNTARY

Psalm Prelude, Set 1 No. 3

Herbert Howells

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.” -*Psalm 23:4*

THE PEOPLE STAND.

## HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 495

*In Babilone*

## OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”  
-*Mark 8:34*

## 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.

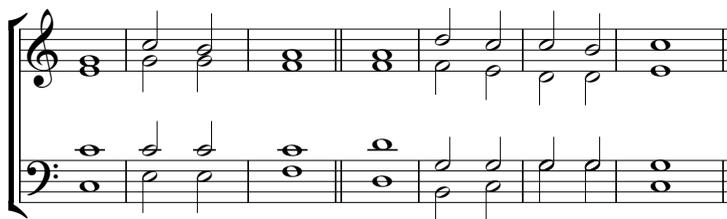
Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

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: *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: 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 23 (KJV)

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*

**I shall not want.**

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; \*

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

3 He restoreth my soul; \*

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.**

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; \*

**for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; \*

**thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.**

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**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.**

## A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."<sup>2</sup>And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'<sup>3</sup>And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."<sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"<sup>5</sup>And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."<sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made



For as the rain and snow fall from the heavens,  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life, and giving growth,  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth:  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,  
and prosper in that for which I sent it. **Refrain**

*-Isaiah 55:6-11*

THE PEOPLE SIT.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his

sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.” (9:1-41)

Reader:     The Word of the Lord.

People:     **Thanks be to God.**

## 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. 671

*New Britain*

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 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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and 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 ANTHEM

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine,  
My soul for Goddës grace;  
No other care nor hope is mine,  
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed  
From all the stars above:  
'Tis named when God's name is said,  
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart,  
That burns with true desire,  
Is lit from eyes that mirror part  
Of that celestial fire.

*-Robert Bridges*

The Offertory anthem *My Eyes for Beauty Pine* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983) utilizes a poem by Robert Bridges and was published in 1928. The text speaks of the Christian whose soul pines for the beauty of God's abundant grace, and whose gaze is fixed on heaven.

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. 665

*Michael*

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Fantasia in D minor

William Byrd

THE GREENERY IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Wesley Goings

Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Porter Powell

Alyce Billings Walker

*by Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Goings*

Elizabeth O'Neal Allen

*by Mrs. Steve Allen*

Virginia McMillan Bromberg

*by Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Bromberg, III*

Sue S. George

Emmett S. George

Alan Gordon George

*by Richard N. George*

AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Anne Rain Tanner

Reeves Hardy Bromberg

Christopher Tanner

*by Nancy and Ricky Bromberg*

Emily Tanner

Griffin Tanner

*by Debby and David Tanner*

## CLERGY

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*For email addresses and phone numbers, please see our staff listing at [AdventBirmingham.org](http://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>Director of Parish Life and Evangelism</i>
The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl	<i>Dean Emeritus</i>

## MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

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Ricky Bromberg <i>Senior Warden</i>	Mike Lucas <i>Junior Warden</i>	Hewes Hull <i>Treasurer</i>	James Bradford <i>Clerk</i>
<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2027</i>	<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2028</i>	<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2029</i>	
Mary Bradley Anderson	Ross Blankenship	Anne-Marie Brown	
Ricky Bromberg	Sister Clapp	Kelly Hargrove	
Wil Bromberg	Lindsey Druhan	Perry Keel	
Fred Elliott	Doug Elliott	Tommy Kitsmiller	
Parker Evans	Jen Green	Anne Lynn Langloh	
Sam Everette	Glynn Lassiter	Tommy Mayfield	
Julia King	Mike Lucas	Clay Morris	
Bailey Knight	Kate Ray	Dan Price	
Thomas Nelson	Will Thuston	Frank Taylor	
Drew Wright	Chris Weingartner	Clay Wilson	

## STAFF

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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</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>
Lowana Wallace	<i>Refectory Music Leader</i>
Ann Campbell	<i>Bookstore Manager</i>
Arturo Davis	<i>Assistant Building Manager</i>
Rachel DeSanto	<i>Deans' Assistant and Finance Associate</i>
Janet Dozier	<i>Receptionist</i>
Anita Gray	<i>Programs and Outreach Administrative Assistant</i>
Michael Halverson	<i>Technology Coordinator</i>
Brad Horne	<i>Building Manager</i>
Spencer Leffel	<i>Communications Associate</i>
Mary Jane McAllister	<i>Digital Media Manager</i>
Beth Anne Maier	<i>Accounts Receivable</i>
Chris Maxwell	<i>Communications Associate</i>
Betsy Pate	<i>Music and Worship Administrative Assistant</i>
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)  
2017 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203  
205 251-2324 | [ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG](http://ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG)