



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



NINE O'CLOCK
in the Refectory
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 scan the QR code below. We look forward to connecting with you this week.

The Lord be with you.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES

3K – Room 104

4K – Room 105

Kindergarten – Room 213

1st Grade – Room 214

2nd Grade – Room 216

3rd Grade – Room 218

4th Grade – Room 307

5th Grade – Room 310

6th Grade – Room 306

7th-8th Grade – The Undercroft

9th-12th Grade – Lower Morton Meeting Room

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) – *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

VISITOR'S CARD



MORNING PRAYER

PRELUDE

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in his arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry 'til you're better
You will never come at all. *Refrain*

Let not conscience make you linger,
Not of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness he requires
Is to feel your need of him. *Refrain*

Words: Joseph Hart, Tune: RESTORATION (Southern Harmony) © Public Domain

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with thee;
 Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not.
 As thou hast been, thou forever will be.

*Great is thy faithfulness,
 Great is thy faithfulness;
 Morning by morning new mercies I see,
 All I have needed, thy hand hath provided.
 Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest;
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 Join with all nature in manifold witness;
 To thy great faithfulness, mercies and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
 Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow;
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. *Refrain*

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan; Public Domain

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 with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

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.**

SONG

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every pow'r as thou shalt choose,
Every pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne,
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only all for thee,
Ever, only all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal, Music: Henri A.C. Malan © Public Domain

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."²And 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.'³And 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."⁴Samuel 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?"⁵And 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."⁷But 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."⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."¹⁰And Jesse made seven

of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these."¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (16:1-13)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

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

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

The First Song of Isaiah

*Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And he will be my Savior.*

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
From the springs of salvation,
And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord.
And call upon his Name.

Make his deeds known among the peoples,
See that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord,
For he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
Ring out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
Is the Holy One of Israel. *Refrain*

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.” ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But 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.” ²²(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.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So 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.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is

a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷He 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?”²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.”³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”⁴¹Jesus 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.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me; your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till traveling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar; Tune: Kingsfold © Public Domain

THE SERMON

Canon Gardner

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 SIT.

THE PRAYERS

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

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 WELCOME AND OFFERTORY SENTENCE

AT THE OFFERTORY

The Lord Is My Shepherd

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.

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.**

SONG

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

It's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Refrain*

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.

Your name is great and your heart is kind.

For all your goodness, I will keep on singing;

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Refrain*

And on that day, when my strength is failing,

The end draws near, and my time has come;

Still, my soul will sing your praise unending

Ten thousand years, and then forevermore. *Refrain*

Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music, Said And Done Music, and SHOUT! Publishing

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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>Director of Parish Life and Evangelism</i>
The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl	<i>Dean Emeritus</i>

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

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

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)
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