



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ELEVEN O'CLOCK
MARCH 15, 2026
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

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) – *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

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth forever.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE

Missa Marialis

Plainsong

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

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.**

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.”² 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.’”³ 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.”⁴ 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?”⁵ 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. 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.” ¹¹Then 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.” ¹²And 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.” ¹³Then 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.**

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth 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 comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 671

New Britain

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 sight¹⁹and 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?”⁴¹ 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 Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Canon Gardner

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

-Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

-John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

-1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

-1 John 2:1-2

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. [*A proper preface is added here.*] Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Plainsong

Missa Marialis

SUNG BY THE CHOIR; THE PEOPLE REMAIN STANDING AS ABLE.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL OR SIT, AS THE CELEBRANT CONTINUES WITH THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again...
...through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

INTERCESSORY PRAYER IS AVAILABLE IN THE REAR OF THE NAVE.

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion. You may receive at the rail or one of the stations. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms across your chest after receiving the bread. To receive the wine, you may drink from the cup or dip the bread in the small vessel inside the cup. (If you are not baptized but would like to be, please see one of the ministers following the service.)

AGNUS DEI

Missa Marialis

Plainsong

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

HYMN NO. 339

Schmücke dich

Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

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
Christopher Tanner
Emily Tanner
Griffin Tanner
by Debby and David Tanner

Reeves Hardy Bromberg
by Nancy and Ricky Bromberg

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>
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Ann Campbell	<i>Bookstore Manager</i>
Arturo Davis	<i>Assistant Building Manager</i>
Rachel DeSanto	<i>Deans' Assistant and Finance Associate</i>
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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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