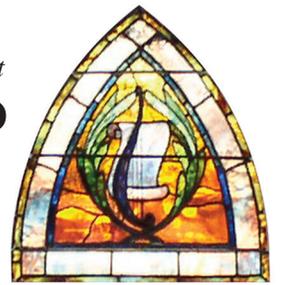


Adventurer

Lent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 12

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Week of March 22, 2026



News & Events

Lenten Preaching this Week: Charleston Wilson, James Bradford, and Paul Zahl

Charleston Wilson, Rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota, Florida, will preach Monday and Tuesday, March 23 and 24, at 12:05 p.m. James Bradford, Clerk of the Vestry and former Senior Warden of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, will be our Lenten Preacher on Wednesday, March 25. Paul Zahl, Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, will preach on Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27. See page 2 for more information.

John Barclay to Speak and Preach this Weekend

Professor John Barclay, one of the world's foremost New Testament theologians, will speak and preach at the Advent March 20-22. He will speak Friday night, March 20, and Saturday morning, March 21, in the Refectory. He will preach this Sunday, March 22, at 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. in the Nave. Widely known for his groundbreaking work on the Apostle Paul, he was also the doctoral supervisor of our own Dean Pinter. See page 2 for details.



A Word from Will Fagan

Singer-songwriter JD Souther was one of the pioneers of the Southern California sound of the 1970s, his collaborative songwriting, and that of Jackson Browne, helping launch the career of Linda Ronstadt – and more famously, the Eagles – during that time. I do not think that Mr. Souther was a Lenten season practitioner, yet Souther's song "How Long" (1972) – made more popular by the Eagles on their 2008 album *Long Road Out of Eden* – acutely encapsulates the human condition devoid of divine intervention. "You could be doin' time in a lonesome prison, where the sun don't shine. Just outside, the freedom river runs."

The freedom river, according to Souther, is a mere mirage, the lure of countless things that offer freedom to our bound selves while never delivering. Describing a jailbreak for the false freedom, he continues, "Out there in that shiny night, with bloodhounds on your mind... don't you know it's the same sad situation?"

At its core, the Christian's walk during Lent – and for all of life for that matter – involves being given the gift of viewing false promises for what they are. The truth is that nothing can make our dead souls and perishing bodies live except for the blood of the lamb given for the sins of the world. Those promises, frankly, only bind us more, imprison us, or hound us in our vain attempts as we run after them.

There is no redemption in Souther's "How Long" – the singer continues his refrain, "How long, how long, will you weep?" The hope of the Christian, however, is to know that in our being bound and even in our running after that which promises to fulfill but doesn't, Jesus Christ – the hound of heaven – tirelessly runs after us all the days of our lives, to the depths of Sheol, to the heights of Heaven, that no one might be lost. For even in the dog days of Lent, may we be reminded that surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and that we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- Will

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.

- Psalm 23:6

This Sunday:

March 22, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: John Barclay

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: John Barclay

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Pinter

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Canon Pinter

We will livestream the 9:00 a.m. Nave service and the 11:00 a.m. service.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.

Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *A Grace-Full Conversation* – John Barclay and Dean Pinter
20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *How Do Sunday Mornings Get to the Heart of Things?* – Will Fagan

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

Lenten Preaching Series

The preaching service runs from 12:05-12:30 p.m. each weekday of Lent except Good Friday. Join us in-person as much as you are able, but when you can't we hope you will join us for the livestream (on our YouTube channel and AdventBirmingham.org/Live) or listen later on our website (AdventBirmingham.org/Audio). You can also subscribe to our podcast and have the sermons delivered directly to your digital device; the podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Lent to see the full preacher schedule.

Lenten Preachers this Week

Charleston Wilson to Preach Monday and Tuesday

Charleston Wilson has served as Rector of Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota, Florida, since 2020. He was ordained there and joined the ministry staff in 2013. Before attending seminary in 2009, he and his family were members of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. While in Alabama, he was a creative entrepreneur in the restaurant, timber, and wine industries, including managing the strategic human resources for a now-national restaurant chain and consulting both nationally and internationally in the wine industry (he is a certified sommelier).



Mr. Wilson regularly incorporates music into his preaching inspiring a Spotify playlist of songs featured in his sermons. In December 2025 he launched *Water into Wine*, a podcast about discovering grace, developing deeper faith, and savoring life's simple joys. He serves as President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of *The Anglican Digest*. He is married to Malacy, and they have two children.

Adventer James Bradford in the Pulpit Wednesday

James Bradford is Clerk of the Vestry and former Senior Warden of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. A life-long member of the Advent, he has served the parish in a number of capacities. He is a member and former President of the Board of Trustees of the Advent Episcopal School, and he serves as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Sewanee conference center. He previously was a Lay Trustee from the Diocese of Alabama for The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.



Mr. Bradford is a Partner at the law firm of Balch & Bingham. He previously served as a member of the Counseling and Guidance Committee of the Birmingham City School System and the English Advisory Committee of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Arts and Sciences. He is married to Lyn, and they have one daughter.



spiritual growth & fellowship

John Barclay at the Advent

Scholar of the Apostle Paul to Speak and Preach

We are delighted John Barclay will be with us this weekend. Formerly the Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University and the doctoral supervisor of Dean Pinter, Professor Barclay (*right*) is widely regarded as one of the foremost New Testament theologians of this generation. The author of many books and scholarly articles, his *Paul and the Gift* continues to shape current and future scholarship on the apostle and how we understand grace.

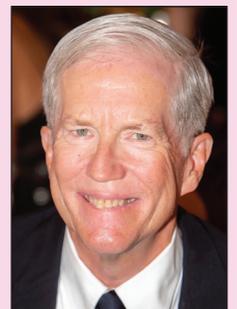


Though the deadline for dinner on Friday night has passed, we hope you will still register and attend his talks on Friday night (March 20 at 7:00 p.m.) and Saturday morning (March 21 at 8:30 a.m.). All the talks will be in the Refectory of the Advent. Additionally, he will be our preacher on Sunday morning in the Nave at 7:30 and 9:00 a.m.

For details and to register, please visit AdventBirmingham.org/Barclay. For more information, contact Gil Kracke (Gil@CathedralAdvent.com).

Dean Emeritus Paul Zahl to Preach Thursday and Friday

Paul Zahl was named Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham in 2025. He served as Dean and Rector of the Advent from 1995-2004. He left Birmingham to become President of Trinity School for Ministry, and later served as Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, Maryland, before his retirement. Before his call to the Advent, he served parishes in New York and South Carolina.



Dr. Zahl graduated from Harvard College and earned his doctoral degree at the University of Tübingen in Germany. He has written a number of books, including *Grace in Practice* and his most recent, *Peace in the Last Third of Life: A Handbook of Hope for Boomers*. He is also the voice of *PZ's Podcast*. He and his wife Mary have three adult sons, all of whom serve in different forms of Christian ministry.

Nursery Available on Thursdays During Lent

A nursery for children ages 5 and under is provided on Thursdays from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.



worship

Holy Week Meditation

Frederick Teardo to Perform *Via Crucis* (The Way of the Cross) on Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m., Director of Music and Liturgy Frederick Teardo will perform Philip Moore's setting of *Via Crucis* (The Way of the Cross). Christ's Passion has been depicted in countless works of art, music, literature, and theatre. *Via Crucis* is a pairing of powerful prayers by Eric Milner-White and musical reflections in 15 movements. A form of the Stations of the Cross, *Via Crucis* offers a path through prayer, music, and meditation to follow Christ's suffering, death, and burial. Come experience the Birmingham premiere of this work.

Lectionary

Sunday, March 22

Psalm 130

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29

Holy Communion at 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

Monday, March 30-Wednesday, April 1

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Preaching Service

Mark Mattes preaches Monday-Tuesday

Robert Smith preaches Wednesday

12:15 p.m.: Lenten Lunches

Maundy Thursday, April 2

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Preaching Service

Robert Smith preaches

12:15 p.m.: Lenten Lunches

6:00 p.m.: Holy Communion and Stripping of the Chancel

Will Fagan preaches • Cathedral Choir sings • Nursery for ages 5 and under • Service livestreamed

Good Friday, April 3

12:00 noon: The Liturgy for Good Friday

Dean Smalley preaches • Cathedral Choir sings • Nursery for ages 5 and under • Service livestreamed

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Mr. and Mrs. James W. Moore, III; Dr. and Mrs. Michael R. Howell; Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Coleman, III; Alice L. Ronk; Janet Lucas Beck; Mr. and Mrs. William W. Goodrich; Mr. and Mrs. Denson Nauls Franklin, III; Hal D. Wachsman; John Cotton, Jr.; Patricia M. Dowling; Carolyn O. Thomas • (Altar Guild) by Leslie and Craig Brady



spiritual growth & fellowship

Men's Ministry

Hike Set for Good Friday, April 3

Advent men are invited to a hike at Ruffner Mountain on Good Friday, April 3, at 6:15 a.m. We will meet at Ruffner Baseball Park (301 Ruffner Road, 35210), and hike a four-mile loop as a group, finishing by 8:30 a.m. Canon Adam Young will take willing participants to Waffle House for a celebratory post-hike breakfast. Contact Adam (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.



education

Confirmation Retreat



The 6th-grade Confirmation class and their parents braved the rain and their busy schedules to gather together at Camp McDowell March 7-8. Hiking, fishing, and running around the forest of Nauvoo, Alabama, were balanced with practicing prayer, reading Scripture, and learning about God's good gifts to us through the sacraments. This year's weekend getaway gave our youth and families a chance to deepen fellowship and form friendships that will carry them through youth ministry and beyond. And do not worry – the weather did not hinder our tradition of Flour Wars. Despite the heavy wind and rain, we were still able to chase each other around with the sole purpose of covering parents in flour. God loves our mess, and so did we!



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, Director of Parish Life and Evangelism
 The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

transitions:

Birth: Isabelle Crommelin Patton, daughter of Aseel and William, on February 12

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Altar Guild) by Lessie and Craig Brady
Henry Goldthwaite Seibels, III: (Altar Guild) by Lessie and Craig Brady
Sarah Britton Neal: (Altar Guild) by Lessie and Craig Brady

Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Mell Gage Smith; Billy and Jane Howard Angell; Ann Hill; Sue Ellen and Mike Lucas; Brasfield & Gorrie, Robert Hayes; Melanie Kearse; Anne Greaves • (Garden Fund) by Charles and Dawn Thornton
Gwen Carlyle: (Endowment Fund) by David Carlyle
Alex McCauley: (Endowment Fund) by Paula McCauley



Cathedral Church of the Advent
 2017 6th Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
 Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150 for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.
 Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 22 Regular worship schedule	23 Lenten Preaching: Charleston Wilson - 12:05 p.m.	24 Lenten Preaching: Charleston Wilson - 12:05 p.m.	25 Lenten Preaching: James Bradford - 12:05 p.m.	26 Lenten Preaching: Paul Zahl - 12:05 p.m.	27 Lenten Preaching: Paul Zahl - 12:05 p.m.	28
Mar 29 Palm Sunday Holy Communion at all services <i>Via Crucis:</i> A Holy Week Meditation for Organ - Nave - 3:00 p.m.	30 Lenten Preaching: Mark Mattes - 12:05 p.m.	31 Lenten Preaching: Mark Mattes - 12:05 p.m.	Apr 1 Lenten Preaching: Robert Smith - 12:05 p.m.	2 Maundy Thursday Lenten Preaching: Robert Smith - 12:05 p.m. Holy Communion and Stripping of the Chancel - 6:00 p.m.	3 Good Friday Church Office closed The Liturgy for Good Friday - noon	4

Monday-Friday (No lunch April 3): Lenten Lunches – Refectory/Clingman Commons, 12:15 p.m.

Monday-Friday: 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.