



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

NINE O'CLOCK

in the Refectory

AUGUST 23, 2026

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 scan the QR code below. We look forward to connecting with you this week.

The Lord be with you.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES

4K – Room 106

Kindergarten – Room 213

1st Grade – Room 214

2nd Grade – Room 217

3rd Grade – Room 218

4th Grade – Room 306

5th Grade – Room 309

6th Grade – Room 310

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) – *A Few of Our Favorite Things: Arvo Pärt* – Dean Pinter

Law and Gospel (Assembly Hall) – *The Good Thing that Kills* – Will McDavid and Gil Kracke

VISITOR'S CARD



TO GIVE ONLINE



PRELUDE

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

Oh, Give Thanks

We were wand'ring in the desert
With our souls so starved and weak;
We were hungry for a homeland
We did not know how to seek.
But we lifted up our voices
To the only one who hears:
And the God of mercy came and brought us near.

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord,
For his love endures forever!
We were wandering and lost
And our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place,
To a feast of joy and laughter.
Oh, give thanks to the Lord for he is good.*

We were locked out of the garden
And our backs bent down with pain;
In the shadow of death's darkness
We were slaves to sin and blame.
Then we cried out in our labor
To the only one who hears:
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears.

We were fools in our rebellion
With our hunger strike of pride;
We were sick and growing closer
To the death we should have died.
Then he heard of our condition
And he called us by our names:
And the God of glory took away our shame.
Refrain

We were far out on the ocean
Making wealth and chasing dreams;
But the waves of great destruction
Brought us trembling to our knees.
And we cried like drunken sailors
To the only one who hears:
And the God of comfort took away our fears. *Refrain*

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Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: 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 SIT.

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful God, that thy Church, being gathered together in unity by thy Holy Spirit, may manifest thy power among all peoples, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH.

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at

the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed. (51:1-6)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- 9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

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.

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing thy grace!
 Streams of mercy never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above.
 Praise the mount; O, fix me on it,
 Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
 Hither by thy help, I've come;
 And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wandering from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed his precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be!
 Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
 Bind my wandering heart to thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love;
 Here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
 Seal it for thy courts above.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. (16:13-20)

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 SIT.

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.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME AND OFFERTORY SENTENCE

AT THE OFFERTORY

Christ is the Life of the World
Words and Music: Sandra McCracken

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 HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

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,

THE PEOPLE SING:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE PEOPLE 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.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, 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 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion. 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.)

*We will feast in the house of Zion;
 We will sing with our hearts restored.
 "He has done great things," we will say together,
 We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire;
 He is the Lord our God.
 We are not consumed by the flood;
 Upheld, protected, gathered up. *Refrain*

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
 My soul, be not afraid.
 For the promised morning: Oh how long?
 O God of Jacob, be my strength. *Refrain*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
 You are the faithful one.
 And from the garden to the grave,
 Bind us together, bring Shalom. *Refrain*

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Let us pray.

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.**

SONG

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

O, the wonderful cross!

O, the wonderful cross!

Bids me come and die, and find

That I may truly live.

O, the wonderful cross!

O, the wonderful cross!

All who gather here by grace,

Draw near, and bless your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. *Refrain*

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THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
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 Rev. Mary Ann McCarty	<i>Curate</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

Caroline Bass	<i>Associate Director of Youth Ministry</i>
Margot Cooney	<i>Director of Youth Ministry</i>
Tara Davis	<i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>
John Mark Haase	<i>Associate Director of Youth Ministry</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>
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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