



Dear Parish Family,

For over 150 years in the center of downtown Birmingham, the Advent has remained a church with a heart for the gospel. An inscription in our pulpit reminds those who preach, “*Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*” (1 Corinthians 9:16), a verse many of our Lenten preachers repeat as they bring us the Good News during Lent.

But the gospel is not just preached on Sunday from the pulpit. It is in the music we hear in our services and in special concerts. It is in our children and youth classes that are focused on learning how every story in the Bible points to the gospel in the Sunday School lessons and weekly morning Bible studies. It is heard and felt in the many ministries the Advent partners with throughout our city and the world.

I am truly thankful for all the many ways I am able to hear and be fed the gospel at the Advent because I need to hear it every single day. “*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.*” (Ephesians 2:8) And what a gift it is – we have been saved by His grace and infinite mercy.

This year’s small group Bible study on Galatians (drafted and published by our very own clergy and staff) feeds us with the reminder that Jesus means freedom. We are no longer bound by the law but are free to live and be joyful in Jesus Christ, free to love and serve one another just as he first loved us. In this time of my life where I want to hang on to the idea that I am in control, this study on Galatians reminds me that trusting in the Lord and asking that His will be done, not my own, is the way to find this freedom and joy.

In this season of Stewardship, I am grateful to have this opportunity to reflect on all the ways the Lord has blessed this parish family. I invite you prayerfully to consider the many ways the Lord has shown his love and mercy to you and your family through the Advent.

Enclosed you will find a Pledge Card. Please return it on either of our two Stewardship Sundays (October 4 or 11), by mail, or visit AdventBirmingham.org/Pledge to submit your pledge online.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lindsey Druhan".

Lindsey Tomlinson Druhan

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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