Advent
Adventurer
OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Vol. 50, No. 42 | First Sunday of Advent | Week of November 29, 2026

News & Events

Last Chance!
Christ in the Christmas Crunch
Is Finally Here!

Grab a friend and join us in Clingman Commons on Thursday, December 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for singing, shopping, serving, giving, lunching, and listening – all at Christ in the Christmas Crunch. Register today through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. Nursery is provided for children ages 5 and under. *See page 2 for more information.*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, November 29, the van Elkan family, Eric and Casey, and Kinleigh (3rd grade), will lead the lighting of the first candle on our Nave Advent wreath at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. service.

In the Refectory service, the Lodewyck family, Antenor and Julie, Gloria (9th grade), Raul (6th grade), and Billie (2nd grade), will lead the lighting of the first candle on our Advent wreath at 9:00 a.m.

Toy Drive for Oak Tree Ministries

Drive Set for Sundays, December 6 and 13. *See page 2 for details.*



A Word from Canon Pinter

It shouldn't be a surprise, but I'm often struck how theologically important the verb "to come" is. It is, of course, at the heart of the name of our congregation "the Advent." The English word "advent" is derived from the Latin word *venire*, literally "to come."

This is a rich word for Christians. Jesus *comes* to us in his first Advent and *continues to come* to us through his Spirit and, vitally, Jesus also bids us with his gentle words to "*come* unto me." We need both of those realities: Jesus comes to us *and* Jesus bids us come to him.

As we begin a new Christian year on the First Sunday of Advent, we will hear, for four weeks in worship, that our new year begins with alert waiting as we anticipate the Second Coming of Christ. Our culture does not help us with this. On the one hand, our culture is not good at waiting and, on the other, it views this season more as a giddy time of festive parties and garish décor than apocalyptic attentiveness. For example, while I am fond of the beaver, the national animal of Canada, I don't understand the purpose of inflatable Buc-ee's beavers at this time of the year.

While I do think there is an element of festive joy to the liturgical season of Advent, it is primarily a season of watching. It is also a time to reflect on the ancient names of Christ – O Wisdom! O Lord! O Root of Jesse! O Key of David! O Radiant Light! O King of the nations! O Emmanuel! – as memorialized in the wonderful Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Most of all, it is a season intended to tune our yearning hearts as we await the Second Coming of Jesus our Lord.

Advent is a great season. I encourage you to let yourself off the hook from the busyness that our culture will try to press upon you. Instead, enter our New Year quietly, patiently, and expectantly. We don't need another Christmas slogan or a Christmas sweater; we need Jesus to come. O Lord, come!

- Dean

"Therefore, stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come."
- Mark 13:35

This Sunday:

November 29, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Pinter

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
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) – *What Does Salvation Feel Like?* – Paul Zahl

In the Fullness of Time (Living Room) – *Why 2,000 Years Ago Matters Now* – David Fleming

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Advent at the Advent: I'll Be Home for Christmas (If Only in My Dreams)* – Will Fagan

Breakfast:

8:15-9:00 a.m. in Clingman Commons

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!

spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry



Above: Advent youth creating stationary sets – sales will support the after-school programs at Park Place.

It's Time for Christ in the Christmas Crunch

Invite a friend and join us for this year's "Crunch" on Thursday, December 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons. With beautiful music of the season provided by Carrie Teardo and Lowana Wallace, this year's event features readings and reflections given by Nina Botsford, Tara Davis, Charlotte Getz, Glynn Lassiter, Derrill McDavid, Ann Evans Nix, Louise Wright, and Mary Zahl.

New Ministry Market vendors, including The Lovelady Center, Darling Grey, Over the Moon, and our own Youth Ministry, join Portraits of Hope and bookstore favorites to help you take care of some of your holiday shopping while supporting the work of these organizations. We are thrilled once again to partner with Oak Tree Ministries in collecting gifts for their Christmas Village. See "Toy Drive to Benefit Christmas in the Village" under *Serving & Outreach (right)* for more information and a link to a wish list to help you choose a gift to bring, unwrapped, to the "Crunch." A delicious lunch will be served.

Please register through your Realm account or at Advent Birmingham.org/Women. Nursery will be provided for children ages 5 and under.

worship

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols



Seasonal Services Set for December 6

Each year the Cathedral Choir prepares music for our Advent Lessons and Carols services, which will take place on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave. These services include prayers, lessons, and carol-anthems that celebrate the Advent season, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We hope you will join us for these services, and if you like the music you hear, we encourage you to purchase the choir's recording, *A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols*, available on CD in the Advent Bookstore.

Lectionary

Sunday, November 29

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 • Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

serving & outreach

Oak Tree Ministries

Toy Drive to Benefit Christmas in the Village

We have the joy and opportunity to support the work of Oak Tree Ministries in Gate City by holding a toy drive the first two weeks of December. Christmas in the Village supplies new toys for parents and grandparents of children in Gate City to shop at 90-percent off retail price. The proceeds contribute to the summer ministry programming at Oak Tree. There will be a table in Clingman Commons on Sundays, December 6 and 13, to drop off toy donations. The Women's Ministry is also collecting toys for the Village at Christ in the Christmas Crunch on Thursday, December 3. There are also opportunities for volunteers to serve by pricing and setting up the store on Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to see a complete wish list, volunteer sign-up, and ways to donate treats to the cause.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. - Titus 2:11-13

serving & outreach

Lenten Lunches

Lunch Ticket Presales Continue

Presales of Lenten Lunches tickets continue to be available at the Advent Bookstore. Remember, they make great stocking-stuffers and last-minute gifts. Bookstore hours are Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Glen Iris Elementary School



Preparing Christmas Food Bags for Glen Iris Students

The Advent is glad to partner with sister churches St. Mary's and St. Luke's to pack holiday supply bags that go home with Glen Iris Elementary students during the Christmas holidays. Last year dozens of volunteers gathered at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands for a wonderful team operation of packing these food bags to help meet the needs of the hungry children in our city. Many of the students who attend Glen Iris Elementary go without basic nutrition when school is out during the break. Our Episcopal churches bless them with fun and nutritious foods. Would you consider joining us in this effort this year? We need financial and material donations as well as physical in-person volunteers.

Below is the list of requested items that Advent will supply (other churches will have their own lists):

- Ramen packs (70 boxes of the 24 pack)
- Applesauce pouches (regular flavor only – 108 boxes)
- Mandarin Orange cups (70 boxes)
- Vienna Sausages (92 boxes)
- Belvita snack packs (variety pack – 69 boxes)
- Mini candy canes (16 tubs)

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to sign up. You can purchase and bring the items to Canon Young or Anita Gray in the church office, or for collection in Clingman Commons this Sunday morning, November 29. You may also make a financial contribution to the Advent, marking it for Glen Iris. All items are due Wednesday, December 2. Then join other volunteers on Saturday, December 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands (1910 12th Avenue S, 35205) to pack the bags.

spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent House Prayer Ministry



Intercessory Prayer Continues at Advent House

How awesome is our God! He has prepared a way for us to come to him. We may bring our prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and supplications to him through his Son Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer intercessors at the Advent House welcome you to come for prayer, and as they pray on your behalf they will be listening to God and trusting in his faithfulness, his wisdom, his redemptive life-giving power, and his desire for good for you.

If you would like to find out more about this prayer ministry and schedule a prayer appointment at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

Women's Ministry



Above: Mary Zahl led Advent women through a wonderful Quiet Day on November 7, using thoughtfully selected Scripture, music, and art. For more information on our Women's Ministry, contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511).

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.

advent clergy

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 Rev. Mary Ann McCarty, Curate
The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

diocese of alabama

The Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III, Bishop

transitions:

Births: Charles "Charlie" Bruno Anderson, son of Olivia and Myles, on November 5; Elizabeth Sutherland Patton, daughter of Sara and Quin, on November 16; Jackson Samuel "Sam" Rawls, son of Jennifer and Jackson, on November 17

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frederick "Ricky" Wilkinson Bromberg: (Endowment Fund) by Dianne Matheson; Linda Kennedy; LaVonda and Perry Keel; George C. Thompson Sr.; DeBardeleben Foundation, Inc.; John and Kim Carney; Cece and Kenny Hartley, Libba and Turner Williams; Lessie and Craig Brady; Gina and Hank Long; Evelyn and Bryant Coats; Carroll and Scott Phelps; Benny and Lynn LaRussa • (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Kate Kiefer and Kelley Washburn • (Mission and Outreach) by Bob and Barbara Schuler

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upcoming events:

Interested in more information?
Watch the *Adventurer*, check social media and the website, or call the church office (205-251-2324).

Parish-Wide

Food Collection for Glen Iris Holiday Bags
Sunday, November 29
Clingman Commons

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 6
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave

Toy Drive for Oak Tree Ministries
Sundays, December 6 and 13
Clingman Commons

Hope4Christmas Party for Kidz2Leaders
Saturday, December 12
10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Refectory

A Ceremony of Carols
Thursday, December 17
5:30 p.m. in the Nave

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 17
6:00 p.m. in the Nave

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20
9:00 a.m. service in the Nave

Groups

Women's Christ in the Christmas Crunch
Thursday, December 3
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons

Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday Luncheon
Wednesday, December 16
Noon at Cranmer House

Women's Retreat
Friday, February 5-Sunday, February 7
Camp McDowell

Children and Youth

Youth Park Place Partners
Wednesday, December 2
4:00-5:00 p.m. at Park Place

Youth Dinner and Devotional (Regressive Dinner)
Sunday, December 6
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sr. High Mystery Trip
Friday, January 15-Monday, January 18

AA: Monday-Friday, Coe Conference Room, noon