

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

NINE O'CLOCK

in the Nave

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

The First Sunday of Advent

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES

3K – Room 105
4K – Room 106
Kindergarten – Room 213
1st Grade – Room 214
2nd Grade – Room 217
3rd Grade – Room 218
4th Grade – Room 307
5th Grade – Room 309
6th Grade – Room 310
7th-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) – *What Does Salvation Feel Like?* – Paul Zahl

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

In the Fullness of Time: Why 2000 Years Ago Matters Now (Living Room) – David Fleming

VISITOR'S CARD

TO GIVE ONLINE

THE WORD OF GOD

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VOLUNTARY — Rorate caeli (Pour Down, O Heavens) — Jeanne Demessieux

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The candles will be lighted by the van Elkan family: Eric and Casey, Kinleigh.

People: **Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** *-John 8:12*

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 61

Wachet auf

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 KNEEL.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE SIT.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH.

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— [2]as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! [3]When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. [4]From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. [5]You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? [6]We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. [7]There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. [8]But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9]Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever Behold, please look, we are all your people. (64:1-9)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.

HYMN NO. 640 *Aberystwyth*

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25]and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26]And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. [27]And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. [28]From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. [32]But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. [35]Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— [36]lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. [37]And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake." (13:24-37)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Dean Smalley

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.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME AND OFFERTORY SENTENCE

ANTHEM

Charles Wood

O thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

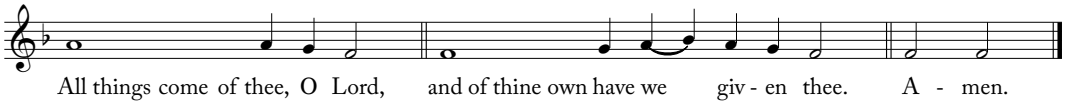
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measur'd grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

-H.R. Bramley

O Thou the Central Orb by Charles Wood (1866-1926) describes Christ as the "central orb" shining upon us through his perfect righteousness. Fitting to Advent, the text is also a prayer for our Lord Jesus to come quickly and fill our darkened hearts with his glorious light.

THE PEOPLE STAND.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

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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 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.)

ANTHEM Advent Prose ed. Stephen Cleobury

Refrain: Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.
-Isaiah 45:8

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord,
and remember not our sins for ever.
Your holy cities have become a desert,
Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;
our holy and beautiful house,
where our fathers praised you. *Refrain*

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean;
we have all withered like a leaf,
and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away.
You have hidden your face from us,
and abandoned us to our iniquities. *Refrain*

You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know me and believe me.
I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver;
what my hand holds, none can snatch away. *Refrain*

Comfort my people, comfort them;
my salvation shall not be delayed.
I have swept your offences away like a cloud;
fear not, for I will save you.
I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer. *Refrain*
-Advent Chant

The Latin chant Rorate caeli (*Pour Down, O Heavens From Above*) has been translated into English in several forms, and has become known as the *Advent Prose*. The first lines come from Isaiah 45:8, and the rest of the text speaks to our waiting and need for the Savior.

HYMN NO. 53 *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

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. 66 *Stuttgart*

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 (Awake, the Voice Is Calling Us) Johann Sebastian Bach

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF

Sydney Page Brewer

by Linda Brewer

CLERGY

For email addresses and phone numbers, please see our staff listing at AdventBirmingham.org.

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*

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Ricky Bromberg	Mike Lucas	Hewes Hull	James Bradford
Senior Warden	*Junior Warden*	*Treasurer*	*Clerk*

In Memoriam

Term Ending Parish Meeting 2027	*Term Ending Parish Meeting 2028*	*Term Ending Parish Meeting 2029*
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

Caroline Bass	*Associate Director of Youth Ministry*
Margot Cooney	*Director of Youth Ministry*
Tara Davis	*Director of Children's Ministry*
John Mark Haase	*Associate Director of Youth Ministry*
Leslie Housman	*Director of Women's Ministry*
Charles Kennedy	*Associate Director of Music*
Gil Kracke	*Director of Programs*
Kathy Logue	*Advent House Coordinator*
Gunter Owens	*Associate Director of Children's Ministry*
Fontaine Pope	*Director of Small Groups and Newcomers' Coordinator*
Frederick Teardo	*Director of Music and Liturgy*
Lowana Wallace	*Refectory Music Leader*
Ann Campbell	*Bookstore Manager*
Arturo Davis	*Assistant Building Manager*
Rachel DeSanto	*Deans' Assistant and Finance Associate*
Janet Dozier	*Receptionist*
Anita Gray	*Programs and Outreach Administrative Assistant*
Michael Halverson	*Technology Coordinator*
Brad Horne	*Building Manager*
Spencer Leffel	*Communications Associate*
Mary Jane McAllister	*Digital Media Manager*
Beth Anne Maier	*Accounts Receivable*
Chris Maxwell	*Communications Associate*
Betsy Pate	*Music and Worship Administrative Assistant*
Robin Turner	*Pastoral Care Coordinator*
Dorothy White	*Director of Finance and Administration*
Eldon Brummett, Drew Foster, Juan Mazuca, Kevin Moore, Gary Talley	*Sexton Staff*

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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