Holy Week Worship Via Livestream
Palm Sunday, April 5
9:00 a.m.: Livestream worship
Mark Gignilliat preaches
Monday-Wednesday, April 6-8
12:05 p.m.: Livestream Lenten Preaching
Wes Hill preaches
Maundy Thursday, April 9
12:05 p.m.: Livestream Lenten Preaching
Murray Lee preaches
6:00 p.m.: Livestream worship
Michael Weeks preaches
Good Friday, April 10
12 noon: Livestream Liturgy for Good Friday
Dean Pearson preaches
Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live to access these events, which will also be streamed on Facebook Live and Twitter.

“What's Up Next”: A Webinar for Parents
On the first three Monday evenings of April, Cameron Cole and Rebecca Lankford will offer a seminar to help parents prepare for adolescence before their kids are teenagers. Each session will take place via the Zoom video app at 8:00 p.m. The first session on April 6 is “Busyness: The Over-Scheduling of Adolescents.” Links will be accessible via social media and AdventBirmingham.org.

A Word from Canon Hicks
Throughout this ordeal, I’ve been thinking a lot about the necessary physicality of our faith in the midst of all our disembodied connection – livestreamed services, Zoom meetings, FaceTime, social media. I’ve felt a tension in the pastoral decisions I and others are making with regards to all this.

Early on in the church’s life, not long after Jesus ascended into heaven, Christians were confronted with the physicality of faith. There were some, the Gnostics, who argued that the spiritual was all that mattered, that the physical life was just a husk to shed on the path to becoming our true, best, non-physical selves. Christians reflected on this and ultimately labeled it heresy. What was the deciding factor? It was the doctrine of Christ. It was that Jesus became incarnate. Once God took on flesh, he put his eternal stamp of validation on what he’d already made pretty clear at creation: the whole human being (body included) was “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- Matthew 8:3

This all means that bodies matter. Physical connections matter.

It got me thinking all the more, in this time, how important it is – even amidst all the necessary distancing and precautions required – to touch people and to be in one another’s physical presence. Certainly we can’t do everything we once could for the time being. But I’ve made it a habit in these days to pay a bit more attention to the physical when I’m with the people I know and love – eye contact, a hand on the shoulder, a hug, a leaning in. I do think that there’s an impoverishment, a specific kind of aloneness, that can settle in when we’re all connecting in disembodied ways.

I think of Jesus who didn’t shrink back from a leper, and not only healed him with his words, but “touched him” (Matthew 8:3).

Love through touch – physical, embodied love – is deeply human, and deeply Christian. I’m thinking about the people who are quarantined alone, who grow needier by the day for this kind of Christian love. Join me in praying for them. Maybe God, in this time, is calling some of us to transcend a few of these barriers.

- Zac

Children’s & Youth Education:
Two resources are now available for families with children. Family Sunday School lessons are posted online every week, and the Advent Christian Academy offers 30-minute lesson plans that align with the Advent’s newly released Bible Benchmarks curriculum. Junior and Senior High Youth will gather every Sunday via Zoom for Christian education. Links to all may be found online at AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus.

News & Events

This Sunday:
April 5, 2020
We again will worship via livestream this Sunday, April 5, as we continue not gathering at the church. Please join us for Palm Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m., when Mark Gignilliat will preach. The Dean’s Class will follow immediately afterward. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or Twitter to access our livestream.

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.
The Dean’s Class will be available via livestream this Sunday. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live.
Recordings of past classes are available on our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

Lectionary:
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14–27:66

The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on AdventBirmingham.org/Live.
Sermon and class recordings are available at AdventBirmingham.org.
A Note on Financial Support

Your financial support makes gospel ministry possible. Church staff will continue to process mailed checks, and information about digital giving options may be found at AdventBirmingham.org/Give.

Sign Up for Parish-Wide Emails

We urge all Adventers to sign up to receive parish-wide emails. You can do this by signing up to get the Adventurer by email, which will also register you to receive the parish-wide emails. (Doing this will not cause you to stop receiving the printed version of the newsletter, unless you so request.) This is the best way for us to reach the most people with timely news. Find the link to sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus.

diocesan staff
The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama
advent staff
The Very Rev. Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Dean and Rector
The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Pastor and Day School Chaplain
The Rev. Canon Matthew C. Schneider, Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism
The Rev. Canon Zac Hicks, Canon for Liturgy and Worship
The Rev. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon
The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

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

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calendar:

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>6</td>
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Anyone desiring to seek God in prayer may still reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. Gatherings at the Advent House have been temporarily suspended; however, prayer intercessors are continuing to pray for people for God’s presence and intervention in their lives for the healing of illness, anxiety, fear, sorrow, and hardship. Please contact Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622 or Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com.