

Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 19

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Week of May 10, 2020



News & Events

Tara Davis Named Next Director of Children's Ministries

Tara Davis has accepted the call to serve as the Advent's next Director of Children's Ministries and will succeed Elizabeth Wilson in the coming school year. She will begin work at the Advent after July 4.

A Birmingham native, Tara has taught for 10 years, including the last five at Crestline Elementary School, where she won two awards for teaching excellence. In addition to her experience relating to and instructing children, we are most excited about Tara's heart for sharing the gospel with young people.

She is married to Kyle, and they have two children, Hudson (5) and Reagan (2). Please join us in thanking God and praying for Tara's future ministry at the Advent.

Charles Kennedy in Concert at Midday

Our own Charles Kennedy will present a Midday Music concert via streaming video on the Advent's recently acquired harpsichord on Friday, May 15, at 12:30 p.m. His program will include works by Bach, Handel, Howells, and Scarlatti. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, Twitter, or YouTube to access our stream.

A recording of the concert will be available for viewing after the initial airing.



A Word from Canon Hicks

Numb. This is the refrain I keep hearing from many during this season. It makes sense of the natural human reaction to the uncreative, stale sameness of this present COVID age. We see the same few people. We experience the same few things.

Bill Murray brought this to life in *Groundhog Day*: somewhere, several weeks in to the curse of waking up to the same day, he lost all human zest and zeal. His interactions with others became more robotic, less human. It seems that humans weren't built for this kind of compression chamber. The natural response is to yield to sub-human numbness.

I find a contrasting word in the Bible that I'm straining to hear with fresh ears and believe with fresh faith: "his mercies...are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23). Oh, how I want something new right now. And if God's mercies can be new to me – well, that sounds more refreshing even now than it used to. I take great comfort in the fact that this verse comes out of an entire book of the Bible filled not with cheerful

exclamations, but woeful *Lamentations*. If God's mercies can be fresh, new, enlivening, and invigorating not only in the good times but in the bad, then there just might be hope that we can get through this.

Until right now, I thought that lament was something that one did only in emotionally charged distress. I thought that suffering took only the form of acute pain. But now I understand that there is a kind of suffering, a kind of trauma, found in numbness. People who experience depression actually know this kind of suffering well. I wonder how those repeat medalists in numbness-marathons find the newness of God's mercies in times like these.

Actually, I know at least part of the answer. I've talked with many of these long-game victors. Their hope lies in opening their eyes to the way everything good that comes their way, however small and simple, is not a chance happening, but a gift from the Father (James 1:17) and therefore a direct overture of love from the Creator of the universe, saying, "I see you. Don't forget I love you." The Father's love – particularly his love in and through Christ – is the cure for our numbness. God, make it real. - Zac

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.
- James 1:17

This Sunday: May 10, 2020

Please join us for worship via streaming video this Sunday, May 10, at 9:00 a.m. Dean Pearson will preach. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, Twitter, or YouTube to access our stream. To download a service bulletin, go to AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. We continue not gathering at the church. Bishop Sloan has extended the suspension of face-to-face worship through May 17.

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean's Class will be available via streaming video this Sunday. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live.

Recordings of past classes are available on our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

Lectionary:

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Sign Up for Parish-Wide Emails:

Find the link to sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus.

Children's & Youth Education:

Two resources are 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 gather every Sunday via Zoom for Christian education following the 9:00 a.m. service. Links to all can be found online at AdventBirmingham.org.

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

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

transitions:

Births: Troy Maxwell Berry, son of Noah and Macey, on April 21; Heyward Von Weston, son of Bill and Heather, on April 27

Marriage: Elizabeth Johnson Kilpatrick and Seth Christian West, on April 24

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

William "Brother" Pritchard, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Elizabeth M. Price; Mike and Genie Thompson; Gerry Dunham; Elaine K. Smith; Vic Nichol; Dorothy T. Ashby; Carlisle and Vivian Jones; Mimi and Fred Renneker; Betty and John McMahon; Mary K Wilson • (Garden Fund) by Maibeth Porter and Robert Eckinger

Emily Parnell: (Endowment Fund) by Jill Abbott; Bob and Wendy Andrews; Martha Jacobs

Jerry Levin: (Endowment Fund) by Jovan and Mike Trapani; St. Bridget's Guild

Richard L. Smalley: (Endowment Fund) by Mary K Wilson • (Pastoral Care) by Ricky and Nancy Bromberg; Mr. and Mrs. Pete Pritchard

John Buchanan: (Endowment Fund) by Boo and Bud Woodall



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 10 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow	11 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	12 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	13 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m. Online Disciple-Maker Training - 1:00 p.m.	14 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	15 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m. Streaming Midday Music: Charles Kennedy, harpsichord - 12:30 p.m.	16
May 17 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow	18 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	19 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	20 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m. Online Disciple-Maker Training - 1:00 p.m.	21 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	22 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	23

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.

Advent House Prayer Ministry: 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 God's presence and intervention in people's lives for the healing of illness, anxiety, fear, sorrow, and hardship. Please contact Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622 or Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com. *Philippians 4:4-7*