

Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 21

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Week of May 24, 2020



News & Events

Vacation Bible School Postponed

It is with deep sadness that we announce our decision to postpone our VBS scheduled for June 1-4 due to the COVID-19 crisis. The safety of our children and volunteers and proper deference to ruling authorities are both very important to us. We want to assure you that the children, youth, and family team at the Advent is working diligently and praying that God would make a way for us to offer an alternate VBS at a later date this summer.

Please pray with us for wisdom and discernment as we explore the best and safest VBS experience. We will continue to stay informed about recommendations of the CDC and our governing authorities. When it is safe to do so, we look forward to announcing the new date for *Rocky Railway: Where Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!* Contact Elizabeth Wilson with questions (Elizabeth@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3547).

Interested in Church Membership?

We invite you to attend our one-day Inquirers' Class on Saturday, July 18, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). This adult education class provides an idea of what the Advent *(continues on back)*



A Word from the Dean

We are living in an age of lament, and part of that is not being able to gather together physically as God's church. It is my earnest desire that we can come together sooner rather than later, but it seems that God would have us continue in a tabernacling period.

The Bishop of Alabama has extended the suspension of public gatherings until June 1. At a recent meeting of senior staff, we had already concluded that it is too soon for us to begin gathering together again. There are considerable logistical impediments that we must work through, and know that if and when we can meet, it will not be like normal. For the time being, we will continue to stream our service and exercise pastoral ministry through other means such as shepherding and small groups.

This is an ongoing conversation and the subject of much prayer. I will keep you posted on our decision making, but we will not be gathering for the month of May.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

We will not be able to gather again until we know that we can do it safely. In the meantime, I am praying the Lord give us patience. We need to guard against a shaming culture that is quickly taking hold around us. We need to model neighborliness, not partisanship. We need to get off social media and get on our knees.

Like you, I am looking forward to an end to this pandemic, but let us not miss the remarkable opportunity that we have to witness the gospel to others. More than just caring for one another outwardly, we need to care for one another spiritually. Never before in my lifetime has there been such an opportunity to introduce people to Jesus, who is the answer to the questions they are asking.

Though we are not able to gather together as before, the deepness of spiritual kinship amongst our church family has not been more felt. It is not only that we are in this together, but that Jesus is in the middle of all of this. God give us hearts that long for him more than for our own comforts.

- Andrew

- Ephesians 3:14, 16

This Sunday: May 24, 2020

Please join us for worship via streaming video this Sunday, May 24, 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 until June 1.

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 68:1-10, 33-36; Acts 1:6-14
1 Peter 4:12-5:11; John 17:1-11

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

Church Membership, cont.

believes and why we believe it, so you can see if you want to make the Advent your church home. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), and she will give you your box-lunch options.

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

William "Brother" Pritchard, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Pam and Billy Longshore; William J. Rush-ton, III; Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Clayton, Jr.; Lee and Joy Cooper; Mr and Mrs. F. Dixon Brooke, Jr.; Grant Lauderdale and Friends at ServisFirst Bank; Betty Shirley; George Lynn; Sallie and Bill Pradat • (Garden Fund) by Lella and Bruce Wilbanks

Richard Smalley: (Endowment Fund) by Emily and Greg Curran; the Alfano Family; Mary Ellen Clark • (Pastoral Care) by Kate Kiefer

Constance Swartz: (Endowment Fund) by Emily and Greg Curran

Jerry Levin: (Endowment Fund) by Emily and Greg Curran

Robert MacElvain: (Endowment Fund) by Emily and Greg Curran



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 24 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow.	25 Memorial Day Church Office closed	26 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	27 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m. Online Disciple-Maker Training - 1:00 p.m.	28 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	29 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	30
May 31 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow.	June 1 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m. Zoom Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting - 7:15 p.m. (Email Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com for Zoom info.)	2 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	3 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m. Online Disciple-Maker Training - 1:00 p.m.	4 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	5 Facebook Live Prayers - 9:00 a.m.	6

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*

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.