

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 28

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of August 23, 2020



News & Events

Outdoor Services at the Church Scheduled to Start this Sunday Morning

Starting this Sunday, August 23, the Advent plans to hold an outdoor service at 8:30 a.m. each week in our porte cochere parking lot on the corner of Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard and Sixth Avenue North. (The streaming service, which is recorded on Thursdays, will continue to air at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.) Everyone who comes will need to bring their own chairs, masks, water or coffee, and to help with appropriate social distancing. Please dress comfortably.

You will need to sign up before coming so we can make sure that we keep numbers at a safe level. Starting each Monday morning, you can sign up for the following Sunday at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. The service will be our familiar Morning Prayer service, similar to what we have been streaming, lasting 45 minutes.

We recommend that everyone check our website and/or social media pages each week before coming, to make sure there are no last-minute changes you might need to know about relating to weather, safety, etc.

See page 3 for a partial list of FAQs, and visit AdventBirmingham.org/Worship for the complete list.



A Word from Canon Smalley

Perhaps you've heard the saying that a preacher has one sermon (or a few if the commenter is generous) that he/she shares in a number of ways. I would say this applies to people in general. I don't mean this condescendingly or in an unnecessarily reductionist way, but we have a narrative that drives us.

The columnist Bernard Levin wrote, "Countries like ours are full of people who have all the material comforts they desire, together with such non-material blessings as a happy family, and yet lead lives of quiet and, at times, noisy desperation, understanding nothing but the fact that there is a hole inside them. And however much food and drink they pour into it, however many motorcars and television sets they stuff it with, however many well-balanced children and loyal friends they parade around the edges of it, it aches."

I believe this to be a common narrative; Our aches and voids drive us, and I experienced this distinctly recently.

You know the deal – I woke up in the middle of the night and was unable to go back to sleep. It's happened before, and

will happen again, but what struck me recently was the tremendous sense of a void. Surely there was some of the typical worry, anxiety, or concern that accompanies these times, but more than that I felt an emptiness. I attempted to pray, ineffectively; basically a recitation of names was the best I could do.

And yet. Though the void and ache are driving factors in our lives, they do not have to be the controlling ones. "*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love for me; love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be. But who am I, that for my sake, my Lord would take frail flesh and die?*"

Our ultimate narrative is replaced by God's. Will you believe me in this? Will you look to him? I pray you will, I pray you do. Jesus' death and resurrection speaks the greatest, final word, and the intercession of the Holy Spirit fills. Ultimately, "we rejoice in the glory of God ... we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:2-5).

- Craig

This Sunday:

August 23, 2020

We will hold an outdoor service in the porte cochere parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Registering is necessary; sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. Dean Pearson will preach.

We continue to offer worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Dean Pearson will preach this Sunday. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, Twitter, or YouTube to access our stream. To download a service bulletin, go to AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

Adult Education: 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean's Class will be available via streaming video this Sunday. Dean Pearson and Chuck Collins will teach a class entitled *Pilgrims on a Journey*. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live.

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

Children's & Youth Education:

Sunday School for rising 3K through 3rd graders will be held at the church during the 8:30 a.m. service for those who have signed up (see page 2). Online, children's Sunday School video lessons continue to be available each week at AdventBirmingham.org under the "Worship" tab. Senior High youth will meet for class in Cameron's backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243) from 10:15-11:15 a.m. As of press time, Junior High has not determined if it will meet in person. Junior High will have a class on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Contact Tucker (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for the most recent information and the Zoom link



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



education

Children's Sunday School

In-Person Sunday School for 3K-3rd Grade Set to Begin this Sunday

We are excited to offer in-person Children's Sunday school to rising 3K through 3rd graders beginning Sunday, August 23. Parents who have signed up for Children's Sunday school will check in their rising 3K-3rd grade children between 8:10-8:25 a.m. at the Betty Turner Garden, the narrow walkway that leads from the Sixth Avenue sidewalk into the Bookstore. (Parents who did not get a spot at the worship service can sign up for remaining spots.) Children will be in three different groups based on age and take part in three stations: Bible teaching, catechism music, and fellowship games. (Any games we play will be no-touch games where children are adequately distanced.) All teachers and children will be required to wear a mask. We will ensure that children are physically distanced at each station. We look forward to spreading the gospel message once again in person to your children! Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Youth Sunday School

Sr. High Starts In-Person Classes

Until further notice, Senior High youth will meet for Sunday School in Cameron's backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243) from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Breakfast will be provided, but students need to bring their own lawn chair, Bible, and mask. Contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Jr. High: As of press time, Junior High has not determined if it will meet in person on August 23. The group will have a class on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for the latest information and the Zoom link

Small Group Studies

New Women's Groups Organizing

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning September 15

Led by Kelly Hargrove at her home
Study to be determined

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Start date to be determined

Led by Tanya Cooper and Lisa O'Neal at Tanya's home
Study to be determined

Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m., beginning September 17

Led by Carolyn Lankford and Melinda King in the Advent's Chapter Room or via Zoom (to be determined)

Study: *Eight Weeks in the Gospel of Matthew*

Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562) if you are interested in joining one of these groups.



worship

Outdoor Sunday Worship at the Advent

Some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Why the porte cochere parking lot?

We considered a lot of options, but came back to the porte cochere. It is a part of our own property; much of the lot is shaded with trees; the porte cochere itself provides some cover for equipment; its bricked area provides a space that the officiant, lectors, intercessor, and preacher can use; it provides easy access to electricity; and we will not have to transport equipment to and from another off-site location.

Where will everyone sit?

Everyone should bring lawn chairs.

What about masks?

Everyone is required to wear a mask. Those who are leading the services will not wear a mask when they are speaking.

What about social distancing?

Households may sit together, of course. Otherwise, everyone should maintain an appropriate distance from one another (six feet).

Do I need to sign up?

Yes – please sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship, starting each Monday morning for the following Sunday. We have sign-up lists to avoid having an unsafe number of people coming. At least initially, we will limit the number who can register to 125.

We canceled the initial gathering in July. What's different now?

Our school safely held a graduation service for 8th graders in July, in this same space. It went very well, allowing us to see how a limited number of people are able to gather safely and maintain a proper distance between households. The limit on how many can come, coupled with the precautions of meeting outside while wearing masks, will provide a significant measure of safety even if there is a surge in the virus.

What about children? Should we come as a family?

Yes! Families with children will be receiving specific information about plans we have for our rising 3K through 3rd graders. Older children will remain with their parents throughout the service, as will infants and toddlers – we will not have a nursery. Feel free to bring snacks and activities that you think would be helpful.

What if it rains, or if there's a threat of rain?

If it rains, or if the weather forecast for that Sunday is clearly forecasting rain, we will not have the service and will encourage everyone to watch the streaming service online. This announcement may not be made until shortly before the service is scheduled to begin. We will try to email everyone registered, but also encourage checking AdventBirmingham.org/Worship and our social media pages just before coming, if there seems to be any question.

What about the service I've been watching online?

We will continue to stream a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., which we record on Thursdays. We know that this will remain a good option and necessary for many in our congregation, especially given our restrictions on numbers.

Please visit AdventBirmingham.org/Worship for the complete list of FAQs.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Ephesians 2:8-9



bookstore

Store Opening Wednesdays Starting August 26

The Advent Bookstore plans to open every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting August 26. Visitors must wear masks, and we will maintain social distancing. Entrance to the store will be through the porte cochere parking lot door. For curbside pick-up, call 205-323-2959. Contact Ann Campbell (Ann@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent Small Groups

Thankful for the Comfort of Community Our Group Provides



Above: The Druhan Family (l-r) – Lindsey, Patrick, Sam, and Frank

When Lindsey and I got the call inviting us to join a small group of newlyweds, our first thought was not one of thanksgiving or praise, but instead was one of anxiety and worry. How could we fit another evening into our schedule as new parents both starting out in our careers? We were struggling to make it to church on Sunday. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit saw through our obstacles and guided us to that first meeting. Twelve years later, we look at our small group as one of God's great gifts in our lives. As young members of the Advent, we grew into a sense of belonging by seeing familiar faces in the pews. Over time our group members have strengthened one another in faith. It has been a joy to watch each family grow and to see our kids come to know Jesus. At a time of such anxiety and worry, we are so thankful for the Advent small group ministry and the comfort of community it provides.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. - Matthew 18:20

- Patrick Druhan

With the pandemic restricting our ability to gather together, small groups are many people's primary contact with the church. We are working on forming new groups that we hope will begin this fall. Please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562) if you are interested in joining one.

Women's Ministry

Sign Up to Receive Our Emails

As the Women of the Advent, we hope to stay connected with you through multiple means, especially during this time of social distancing. You may not know that we have a specific email list for the women of the church. If you have not been receiving our newsletters and special reflections, please visit AdventBirmingham.org/News for the link to sign up. For more information, contact Carolyn Lankford (Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511).

Divorce Recovery

Group to Meet Starting September 10

If you are experiencing the hurt and turmoil of a divorce, consider joining with others for healing and support. An eight-week Divorce Recovery Group will meet at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209), Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m., beginning September 10. The group is open to men and women, but will be limited to no more than 10 participants. We plan to meet in a large room with good air flow, and adhere to distancing guidelines, but will adapt how we meet if necessary in order to stay safe. If you think now might be the right time for you to reach out for healing, please contact Stella Schreiber, Counselor and Pastoral Care Associate (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8558).

Youth Ministry

Sr. High: First Family Dinner Set for September 20

We hope all 9th-12th graders can join us for our first Family Dinner of the season! We will meet on Sunday, September 20, 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) at a social distance, with food, worship, and fellowship provided in a safe manner. The theme is "Talladega Night," so come dressed for the races! Please bring a mask as well. Questions? Contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).



education

Children's Sunday School

Nursery Graduation for 2K this Sunday

Commencement services to celebrate the graduation of our 2K students who are moving to 3K and the children's ministry will be held this Sunday, August 23, 4:00-4:30 p.m. at Overton Park in Mountain Brook. Families and graduates will receive a diploma, enjoy a cupcake, and hear from the children's pastors and the Director of Children, Youth, and Family about the exciting next season! Please email Lucy Kate Green (LucyKate@CathedralAdvent.com) to sign up if you plan to attend.

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.

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama
 The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop Coadjutor 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:

Birth: William McBride “Mac” Yandell, V, son of William and Sarah, on July 2
Baptisms: Madeline Grace Mathis, daughter of Emily and Chase, on August 9; Isaac Andrew Gamble, son of Ross and Katie, on August 9
Deaths: Beverly Poole Baker, on July 29; Charles Richard Saunders, on August 2

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Joan Johnston Thomas: (Garden Fund) by Betsy and Jack Allison; Lella and Bruce Wilbanks • (Endowment Fund) by Eve Holloway; Mr. and Mrs. James Wilder Kelley
Sue Pierce: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Deenie M. Culver
Richard Smalley: (Endowment Fund) by David and Mary Evelyn McKee
In Thanksgiving for Kane and Lyda Burnette: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Randy and Rosemary Ham



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 23 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham. org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	24	25	26 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	27	28	29
Aug 30 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham. org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	31	Sept 1	2 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	3	4	5

Lectionary this Sunday, August 23: Psalm 124 or Psalm 138; Exodus 1:8–2:10 or Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Intercessory Prayer Available at the Advent House: Anyone desiring to seek God in prayer may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. We are offering prayer sessions in the garden at the Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205) or via the Zoom video app. Please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

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