Two Outdoor Services at Church this Sunday Morning

We will have two outdoor services this Sunday, September 6, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. in our porte cochere parking lot on the corner of Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard and Sixth Avenue North. We plan to maintain this schedule for the foreseeable future. The 8:30 service will include band-led music, while the 9:45 service will feature choir and organ-led music. (The streaming service, which is recorded on Thursdays, will continue to air at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.) 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 at 9:00 a.m., you can sign up for the following Sunday at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

All who come will need to bring their own chair, mask, Bible, and beverage, and to help with appropriate social distancing. Please dress comfortably. To help with appropriate social distancing, you may also sign up to volunteer to help with the services. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. Separate registration processes will be used for the two services. Visit our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Live for Sunday School sign-up information.

For more information, see our list of FAQs at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

A Word from Canon Hicks

God loves you more than you think he does. I was reminded of this recently when I (yet again) blew my top with one of my kids and disciplined them with heaps of anger, rather than in gentleness and patience (Ephesians 6:4). I wrapped up my heated lecture-session apologizing, then I led my child and me in a prayer that began like this, “God, thank you so much that you’re not a Father like me. Thank you that you’re slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

You and I tend to think God the Father is probably closer in disposition to Zac-the-father than to who God actually says he is in his word. We tend to think that God is constantly sighing, always facepalming, perpetually disappointed, and then, after a bit of a headshake he eases up his furrowed eyebrows, lifts his slumped shoulders, and wipes the disappointment off his face so that he can talk to us with a bit of measured kindness. We think this way, well, because that’s how love looks everywhere else. Even the people who love us the most end up loving us this way. We have no other models.

But God’s love, Scripture tells us, is of a different kind. It has a completely different operating system than our mixed-feeling kind of love. “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are,” the apostle John says (1 John 3:1). His love is a different species. It’s the kind of love whose instinct, when we blow it, isn’t to lose its cool or shake its head. It’s the kind of love whose immediate reaction is to draw “near to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:18), to embarrassingly run to meet the prodigal with tears and a joyful embrace (Luke 15:20). You see, God’s kind of love is the kind that, upon seeing our sin, doesn’t feel disappointment, but immediate, overwhelming compassion. And, of course, the cross itself is Exhibit A: “God so loved the world [hear, ‘God’s love was of such a kind’] that he gave his only begotten Son” (John 3:16). Can you believe it?

- Zac

See what kind of love the Father has given to us.

- 1 John 3:1

This Sunday: September 6, 2020

We will hold outdoor services in the porte cochere parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Registering is necessary; sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. Canon Smalley will preach.

We continue to offer worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Canon Smalley will preach this Sunday. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, 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 will teach. 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. and 9:45 a.m. services 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. Junior High will meet at the Flowers’ home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213) from 10:30-11:15 a.m. A Zoom link will be provided to Junior High students who want one. Contact Tucker (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com).
GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT’S GOING ON!

Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting Via Zoom September 7
All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering to take place via the Zoom video app on Monday, September 7, at 7:15 p.m. Typically held the first Monday of each month, this hour-long meeting is set aside to pray for the Advent.
Visit AdventBirmingham.org/News to get the Zoom link, and contact Margaret Pope (Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information. We hope you can join us.

Rally Day Picnic
Event Canceled this Year Due to Covid-19
Unfortunately, we have canceled our Rally Day Picnic on September 13 this year. Given the concerns about the coronavirus and the understandable limitations at the zoo for large gatherings, we will not be able to enjoy our afternoon gathering together. Though this likely does not surprise anyone, it is still a disappointment to many of us. We have already made our reservation at the zoo for the Rally Day Picnic in 2021. Lord willing, we will see everyone there!

We are happy to note that the annual Rally Day Skit will be a part of our streamed service at 9:00 a.m. on September 13.

Youth Ministry
Sr. High: “Talladega” Family Dinner September 20
Mark your calendars for our first Family Dinner of the season on Sunday, September 20, 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). All 9th-12th graders are welcome to attend. We will maintain social distance and masks will be required – dinner, worship, and a talk all provided. The theme is “Talladega Night,” so come dressed for the races!

Due to Covid-19, we will be taking registrations for the dinner to ensure we maintain a safe number of students. To register, visit AdventBirmingham.org/News. Questions? Contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).

Sr. High: Retreat Campout Set for October 2-3
We are looking forward to our Senior High Fall Retreat Friday-Saturday, October 2-3. We will camp out in the yard of the Pursell home (4116 Abingdon Lane, 35243) on Friday night. Connor Coskrey, Youth Ministry Director at Redeemer Community Church, will be our guest speaker. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/News to register.

Jr. High: Walking Retreat Planned for October 10
We have scheduled a Junior High Walking Retreat around Mountain Brook on Saturday, October 10. The event will include a couple of talks, games, and dinner in various backyards and large, outdoor areas. More details to come. The rain date is tentatively set for October 17. Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Children’s Sunday School
In-Person Sunday School for 3K-3rd Grade at Outdoor Services
We were so thankful to resume in-person gatherings at church on August 23, for the worship service and 3K-3rd grade Sunday School. Though masked and socially distant, the children showed palpable joy and energy as they learned about Jesus being the incarnate God, learned New City Catechism songs, and played non-touch fellowship games. Love, learning, and laughter were all around. We are grateful to God and trusting him to lead us as we continue his work in the Children’s Ministry.

We will be having in-person Sunday School for 3K through 3rd Graders at both of the outdoor services, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Children must be registered. After registering themselves for one of the services, parents need to register their 3K through 3rd graders for Sunday School. The Sunday School registration is second and separate from registering for the services. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Worship for registration information.

Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Reading of The Pilgrim’s Progress Kicks Off on Rally Day
What is it about The Pilgrim’s Progress that has made it one of the bestselling books in history, at one time second only to the Bible in sales? Let’s find out! Join us in reading this book this fall. Dean Pearson will kick off our reading with an introduction to the book in the Dean’s Class on Rally Day Sunday, September 13, streaming at 10:00 a.m. You can order one of the two editions we recommend from the Advent Bookstore (205-323-2959), which is open on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information contact Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com).

Inquirers’ Class
Interested in Membership? Come September 19
The Inquirers’ Class is an adult education course that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. It is open to anyone, but is designed particularly for newcomers to the Advent.

Our next class will be Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at our off-site location, Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Lunch will be provided. Make your reservations with Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).

Youth Sunday School
Youth Holding In-Person Classes
Junior High youth will meet at the Flowers’ home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213) from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Breakfast will be provided; bring your own lawn chair, mask, and drink. A Zoom link will be provided for students who aren’t comfortable gathering in person.

Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com).

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 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

**spiritual growth & fellowship**

**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).

**Praise Service**

**Service Now on Tuesdays in the Garden**

Our Thursday-morning service has moved to Tuesday! We are excited to bring back our mid-week worship service with a new day and time. Join us in the Rector’s Garden at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. This service is open to all! Masks and social distancing will be required as we worship together. Contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

**Outdoor Worship at the Advent**

Above: Adventers gathered together for worship at the church on August 23 for the first time since March. We will be holding two outdoor services each Sunday, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. in our porte cochere parking lot. You will need to sign up before coming so we can make sure that we keep numbers at a safe level. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Worship for registration information. We continue to offer worship via streaming video every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**Small Group Studies**

**New Women’s Groups Organizing**

- **Mondays, 9:15-10:30 a.m., beginning September 14**
  Led by Virginia Hornsby at Cranmer House or via Zoom (to be determined)
  Study: An eight-week study of *Sanctuaries, The Places of Life-Giving Water*

- **Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning September 15**
  Led by Kelly Hargrove at her home
  Study: *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts

- **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

- **Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., beginning September 16**
  Led by Carolyn Lankford and Melinda King at Cranmer House or via Zoom (to be determined)
  Study: *Eight Weeks in the Gospel of Matthew*

- **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.

**memorials:**

**Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:**

- **Richard L. Smalley:** (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan; Ruth and Donald Sanders • (Pastoral Care) by Charlotte Murdock; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Farley, Jr.
- **Johnnie Richey:** (Endowment Fund) by Charlotte Murdock; Dorothy Morgan; Roberta Woods; Reb Baker
- **William “Brother” Pritchard, Jr.:** (Pastoral Care) by Charlotte Murdock • Endowment Fund by Jane Bissell
- **Carol Sanders Williams:** (Pastoral Care) by Charlotte Murdock
- **Frank Hardy Bromberg, Jr.:** (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan
- **Barbara Brown Wood:** (Endowment Fund) by Mallie Ireland and Stewart Dansby

**Holiday Closing**

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. It will reopen Tuesday, September 8.
Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150
for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017
6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.
Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL. POSTMASTER: Send changes
to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT,
2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

transitions:

Birth: Lucille "Lucy" Mae Blankenship, daughter of Din and Ross, on August 15
Baptisms: Katherine Patricia Wright, daughter of James and Emily, on August 23; Emerson Grace Alvis, daughter of Stewart and Kelsey, on August 23; Heyward Von Weston, son of Bill and Heather, on August 23
Death: Jane Worrell Ziegler, on August 26

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:
Martha P. Lawrence: (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan
Thomas A.S. Wilson: (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan
Barbara Oliver (Pastoral Care) by Mrs. Frank H. Bromberg, Jr.
Henley Carr: (Endowment Fund) by Beverly, Rebecca, and Robert Howard
Todd Peebler: (Garden Fund) by Charles Scribner
Joyce Gelzer: (Garden Fund) by Elizabeth and Bayard Tynes

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
The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

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

calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Labor Day Church Office closed</td>
<td>Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13 Rally Day Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lectionary this Sunday, September 6: Psalm 149 or Psalm 119:33-40; Exodus 12:1-14 or Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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.