

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Christmas



Vol. 45, No. 1

Second Sunday After Christmas

Week of January 3, 2021



News & Events

Praying for the Advent in January

All Adventers are invited to a Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting to take place via the Zoom video app on Monday, January 4, at 7:15 p.m. This monthly, hour-long gathering is set aside to pray for the Advent. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/News to get the Zoom link.

Dean Pearson will set aside January 11-13 as a time to pray personally for our Advent family of faith. The Dean will join individuals in praising God for blessings and praying specifically for God's attention to requests for help or healing. These prayer requests will be kept confidential and may be submitted to the Dean at Andrew@CathedralAdvent.com.

See page 2 for more information.

Communion at Both Services this Sunday

We will have Communion at both of our services this Sunday, January 3, 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in the Nave. Upon arriving, everyone will receive an individualized package containing a wafer and a small amount of wine. At the appropriate time, the Officiant will direct everyone to receive Communion at their seats. We will not be going forward for Communion.

You need to register to attend a service. Sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.



Usually at this time of the year, we are setting goals and New Year's resolutions. However, I think it is safe to say that this year most of us are just hoping and praying that the year 2021 will be an improvement over the chaos we experienced in 2020. It is hard to think about what might come next when you are still adjusting to what has occurred in the last nine months. It is similar to what the disciples must have felt in the book of Acts, Chapters 1 and 2, as they witnessed Jesus ascending into heaven, leaving them behind to take up his mantle in spreading the gospel on earth. No doubt they felt ill-equipped for such a large task and found themselves in a state of both anticipation and trepidation. I believe we can all relate to such feelings.

We have a 5-year-old in our house, and each Christmas he is both anxious and excited about the presents he hopes to get. Each day leading up to "the Big Day," he inspects the newly wrapped packages under the tree and asks the same question, "Can I open mine today?" With every response of "Not

A Word from Wes Sharp

yet," his anticipation builds until Christmas morning finally arrives and the answer is "Yes, you may now open your presents!" The gift inside, as good as it may or may not be to him, is not always the most important; however the anticipation and the wait make the final unwrapping all worth it.

To the disciples, the anticipation was well worth the wait when the Holy Spirit burst forth into their lives, changing their hearts and the world around them. All they had been promised finally came to pass, and it was beyond all their expectations! They couldn't help but to proclaim this good news to anyone who might listen.

We do not know what 2021 holds for us, but we can be assured of two things. God's power and God's presence will remain with us to accomplish the call of the gospel that was highlighted in the book of Acts. The plan has not been thwarted, it may look different than what we expected, but hasn't that really been God's method of operation since the beginning? Maybe this year, our plan should be simply to engage with his plan, to satisfy our anticipation and trepidation with the proclamation of the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. - Wes

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. - Matthew 24:14

This Sunday:

January 3, 2021

9:15 a.m. Holy Communion
(Band led)

11:15 a.m. Holy Communion
(Organ and Choir led)

Preacher: Cameron Cole

Register to attend at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

We will livestream both services, at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our livestream.

Adult Education:

Adult classes will be held from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Registering in advance is necessary at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

Recordings of classes are available at Audio.AdventBirmingham.org.

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *The Epistle of Jude: Contending for the Faith that Was Once for All Delivered to the Saints* – Dean Pearson

Old Testament Life on the Ground: The Writings (Living Room) – Mark Gignilliat

Children's & Youth Education:

Sunday School for 3K through 3rd graders will be held at the church during the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. Classes for 4th-6th graders will be held at the church from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Please ensure that you sign up your child through the Signup Genius link sent by Tara Davis as we have limited spaces.

Children's Sunday School video lessons continue to be available online each week at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

Watch for information from Tucker Fleming and Rebecca Lankford regarding times and locations of Junior High and Senior High classes this Sunday.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting Via Zoom January 4

All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering to take place via the Zoom video app on Monday, January 4, 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. As Dean Pearson wrote about these gatherings, "If we are not on our knees, we are trying to do ministry in our own strength. We know that apart from the Lord Jesus we can do nothing."

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.

Dean Pearson Sets Personal Time of Prayer for the Advent, Invites Requests

Dean Andrew Pearson will set aside January 11-13 as an extended period of time to pray for our Advent family of faith. He will pray in general for the church as we enter 2021 and continue seeking ways to collectively grow in gospel-confidence and make disciples wherever God places us. Dean Pearson will also join individuals in praising God for the blessings of this life and praying specifically for God's attention to requests for help or healing. These praises and prayer requests will be kept confidential and may be submitted by email to the Dean at Andrew@CathedralAdvent.com.

Investiture of Glenda Curry as Bishop of Alabama January 9



The investiture of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry (*left*) as the 12th Bishop of Alabama will be Saturday, January 9, 11:00 a.m. in the Nave of the Cathedral Church of the Advent. Due to Covid-19, in-person attendance will be limited and the service will not be open to the public. The service will be livestreamed. Visit DioAla.org for more information.

New Audio Website Is Online

Our new and improved Advent Audio website is up at Audio.AdventBirmingham.org. If you've missed this resource, it's back and better than ever! You can hear recent sermons, classes, and lectures, as well as search to find audio content going back a number of years. You can also access our audio site from our website homepage (AdventBirmingham.org) by clicking on "Media" at the top of the page and then clicking on "Listen."

The iTunes Podcast will be made available soon, and as always new audio will be added every week so be sure to subscribe.

Slate Named for 2021 Vestry Election

The Vestry approved a slate of 20 candidates for the 2021 Vestry election at its meeting in November. The nominees are as follows:

Jim Andrews
Warren Baker
Russ Chambliss
Jim Dixon
Bing Edwards
Cardwell Feagin
David Fleming
Ron Flowers
Alfred Goings
David Green
Jen Green
Kenan Lucas
Ginger Mayfield
Kristen Padilla
Donny Patton
Mary Berkeley Pritchard
Jack Sharman
Laura Steele
Robin Wade
Ann Bailey White

Parishioners will elect 10 of these nominees to serve on the Vestry of the Cathedral Church of the Advent at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 24, at 1:00 p.m. in the Nave. Advent members will have the option to attend in person or virtually (via a Zoom webinar). For those attending in person, paper ballots will be provided for the Vestry election. Those attending virtually will vote via Google forms. The meeting will also feature the Dean's annual address to the Parish. Registration will be necessary to attend, both in person and virtually.

Watch for more information to come about the Parish Meeting. Contact Margaret Pope (Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3510) with questions.

Canon Hicks Earns Doctoral Degree



This past year, Canon Zac Hicks (*left*) completed his Doctor of Ministry degree, with an emphasis in the Theology and Worship of the English Reformation, from Knox Theological Seminary. His thesis, *Worship by Faith Alone: Thomas Cranmer's Vision for Gospel-Centered Liturgy*, was overseen by Drs. Ashley Null and Jonathan Linebaugh.

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.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Galatians 4:4-5



spiritual growth & fellowship

Young Adults' Ministry

Gathering Set for January 5

If you're in your 20s or 30s, please join us for fellowship on Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m. at Trintab Brewing Company (2721 5th Avenue South, 35233). We'll be outside on the patio, wearing masks and observing social distancing.

Beginning in February, the monthly Young Adults' gathering will be on the last Tuesday of each month, starting with February 23. For more information, contact Michael Weeks (Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com).

Youth Ministry

Sr. High Girls' Retreat January 9

The Youth Ministry is excited to announce its first Senior High girls-only retreat on Saturday, January 9, in Birmingham. All 9th-12th grade girls are welcome to join us for a day of fellowship and fun. We will meet at the Embassy Suites on Highway 280 (2300 Woodcrest Place, 35209) at 9:00 a.m., with various breaks around town; we'll finish around 4:00 p.m. We hope you can join! Sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/News or contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Advent Bowl Rescheduled for January 10

After being rained out in November, one of our most beloved Advent traditions has been rescheduled: the Advent Bowl! All 7th-12th graders are invited to compete in our two-hand touch football tournament on Sunday, January 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Mountain Brook High School field. Masks are required. Contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Intercessory Prayer Is Available



Anyone desiring prayer for God's intervention in their life for healing, guidance, or protection may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. In the interest of personal safety, the needs of each individual calling will be taken into consideration when deciding whether to meet virtually or in person at the Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205). For further information and to schedule a prayer appointment, please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).



education

Youth Confirmation

Program for 6th Graders to Begin Soon

Confirmation 2021 will commence in the coming weeks. Be on the lookout for more information if you have a student in 6th grade. Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, January 3: Psalm 84 or Psalm 84:1-8
Jeremiah 31:1-14
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or
Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday-Morning Service

Praise Service Held Every Tuesday Morning

The Advent holds a 30-minute Praise Service on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Nave. This service offers us a midweek opportunity to reflect on God's word, pray for the needs of our city, and have fellowship with people from all walks of life. Social distancing protocol and masks are required for health and safety. Contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

For thus says the Lord: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord."

- Jeremiah 31:7-14

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 Dr. Zac Hicks, Canon for Liturgy and Worship

The Rev. Canon Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

transitions:

Baptism: Cecile Rae Crawford, daughter of Will and Jane, on December 20

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Sudie Clark Hanger: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Carolyn Lankford

Saidee H. Gardner: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Charlotte S. Murdock

D. Lawrence Faulkner: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Charlotte S. Murdock

Jane W. Ziegler: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Caroline and Samantha Settle

In Thanksgiving for Britton Neal: (Altar Guild) by Amy Neal Ager

In Thanksgiving for Margi Ingram: (Pastoral Care): by Eloise and Bill Doty



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 3 Holy Communion - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m.	4 Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting via Zoom - 7:15 p.m.	5 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m. Young Adults' Gathering - Trimbab Brewing - 7:00 p.m.	6 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	7	8	9 Sr. High Girls' Retreat - Embassy Suites - 9:00 a.m. Investiture of the 12th Bishop of Alabama - Nave - 11:00 a.m.
Jan 10 Morning Prayer - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m. The Advent Bowl - Mtn. Brook High Sch. Field - 2:00 p.m.	11	12 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	13 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	14	15	16

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.