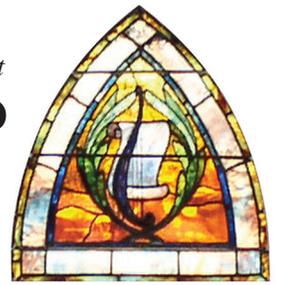


Adventurer

Advent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 43

Second Sunday of Advent

Week of December 6, 2020



News & Events

Communion at Both Services this Sunday

We will have Communion at both of our services this Sunday, December 6, 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. Starting each Monday at 9:00 a.m., you can sign up for the following Sunday at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

Drop-Off Coat Drive Is this Sunday

Our annual Coat Drive will be a Drop-Off Drive this Sunday, December 6. We will receive donations in the Porte Cochere (or visitor's parking lot off of Sixth Avenue North) between 8:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. See page 2 for details.

Christmas Services Planned

We have scheduled six Christmas services of Holy Communion and a Family Service from Monday, December 21, through Thursday, December 24. The Communion services will be at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. See page 2 for the schedule.



A Word from Canon Hicks

A few weeks ago, the pastors went on a short retreat to spend time together, pray together, laugh together, be in the word together. In my times in the word there, I was surprised by a literal "word" that God kept impressing on me in the Scriptures. That word is "joy." Joy felt like such an out-of-place idea for God to press on me in such a joyless time – election season, Covid. Joy never seems appropriate in the face of distress, turmoil, and suffering. But then I read Paul's words: "You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word *in much affliction*, with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

Three things hit me square between the eyes in this short verse. First, joy is indeed the fruit and gift of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Second, finding joy amidst suffering is something that characterized our Lord and his apostle, Paul, and is worthy of imitation. Third, contrary to intuition, joy and affliction don't exist in inverse relationship (i.e. the greater

your joy, the less your affliction must be; or the greater your affliction, the less joyful you must be). Joy, for the Christian, actually comes *alongside* suffering, accompanying it. It's almost as if where affliction increases, we can expect joy to increase. That's crazy talk. But it's also Bible talk. Because as I pondered this, the Spirit began to bring other passages to mind where we find joy saddled up to affliction: Psalm 51:12; Nehemiah 8:10; Hebrews 12:2.

How does all this work? How does the afflicted one find joy in affliction? I'm not quite sure. Given that it is the activity and work of the Spirit, I'm not sure we're meant to think we can *pursue* joy (though we *are* commanded to rejoice, aren't we?). And I'm certainly not advocating that any of us actively seek affliction, either. God knows it will find us with no problem. The simple hope here is that, for the Christian filled with the Holy Spirit, we can expect, anticipate, even count on the Holy Spirit's faithful gift of joy in hardship. Indeed, Advent is a season of penitence, waiting, lack. But *in* that affliction, the Holy Spirit *will* come to bring you "good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10).

- Zac

Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

- Psalm 51:12

This Sunday:

December 6, 2020

9:15 a.m. Holy Communion

(Band led)

11:15 a.m. Holy Communion

(Organ and Choir led)

Preacher: Canon Hicks

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 AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Job: A Christian Witness* – Mark Gignilliat
To Be Known by God (Chapter Room) – *Free at Last (Galatians 5:1-15)* – Gil Kracke

Jeremiah: A Parable of Jesus and a Disciple of Christ (Living Room) – *Jeremiah's Lament* – Doug Webster

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 for those who have signed up. Class for 4th-6th graders will be held in the Day School Gym from 10:15-11:00 a.m. for those who have registered through the Signup Genius link sent by Tara Davis.

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

Junior High youth will meet at the Flowers' home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213), 10:15-11:00 a.m. Senior High will meet in Cameron's backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243), 10:15-11:00 a.m.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



worship

Christmas Services

In-Person and Streamed Services Set for Christmas Week

Here is our schedule of Christmas services to be held in our Nave:
Monday, December 21, 5:30 p.m.: Holy Communion (Organ and Choir led)

Tuesday, December 22, 5:30 p.m.: Holy Communion (Organ and Choir led)

Wednesday, December 23, 5:30 p.m.: Holy Communion (Band led)

Wednesday, December 23, 8:00 p.m.: Holy Communion (Organ and Choir led)

Thursday, December 24, 3:00 p.m.: Family Service

Thursday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.: Holy Communion (Band led) – *Service also livestreamed*

Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.: Holy Communion (Organ and Choir led) – *Service also livestreamed*

Friday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – *This prerecorded service will be streamed only, no congregation.*

Dean Pearson will preach at all services except the Family Service, where Cameron Cole will preach.

You must register to attend any of these services, as attendance will be limited to maintain Covid safety. Registration for Christmas services will open on Thursday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m. You will be able to sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship or by calling our office at 205-251-2324 and registering with the receptionist during office hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

We will livestream our two Communion services on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be available via streaming on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our streaming worship services.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Service to Be Streamed December 17 and Christmas Day

This year, the Cathedral Choir will lead a special prerecorded service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which will be aired on Thursday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m., as well as Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. on AdventBirmingham.org/Live and associated digital platforms.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is the Christmas Eve service held in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, every year since 1918. Conceived as an imaginative approach to worship, the service gained enormous popularity and is broadcast all over the world today. Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is heavily modeled on the original King's service, celebrating the Scripture that tells the story of the Fall, the promise of the Messiah, and Christ's birth in Bethlehem. Each lesson is followed by music that illumines and heightens the spoken word just heard. The choir will sing some the congregation's favorite Christmas Carols, as well as many other seasonal selections. Canon Smalley will officiate, and Dean Pearson will preach. You do not want to miss this special service!



serving & outreach

Coat Drive

Drop-Off Drive Is this Sunday

2020 is the year of the pivot, so this year our annual Coat Drive will transform into a Drop-Off this Sunday, December 6. All items will be received in the Porte Cochere (or visitor's parking lot off of Sixth Avenue North) before and after worship services – between 8:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Please consider bringing the following items:

- Men's coats, larger sizes appreciated
- Warm socks
- Underwear
- Jeans

We are so grateful for our partnership with Brother Bryan Mission as they work to disciple men struggling with addiction. Our Coat Drive will help provide cold-weather supplies for these men as a way to bless and encourage them in their journey toward a deeper relationship with the Lord and ongoing sobriety.

We need volunteers on December 6. To help with the Coat Drive, please contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com).

Poinsettia Delivery

Help Needed on Christmas Day

Spread the joy of the birth of our Savior by bringing personal Christmas greetings to those who may not have been able to attend one of the Christmas services. Poinsettias can be picked up, along with one or more addressed cards, from Stella Schreiber's home in Homewood between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. (Note: This is a different time and place than in previous years.) This will be a project that you can complete with no close physical contact with others! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Stella Schreiber (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8558).



spiritual growth & fellowship

Youth Ministry

Jr. High and Sr. High Progressive Dinners this Sunday

Another favorite Advent tradition is upon us: the Progressive Dinners, happening this Sunday, December 6. This year we will "progress" in and around Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) to maintain Covid safety. We will still enjoy food, fellowship, and play Dirty Santa! Junior High will have its dinner from 5:00-6:15 p.m., with Senior High following from 6:57-8:15 p.m. Please bring a gift of no more than \$10 to play Dirty Santa. Hope to see you there!

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Titus 2:11-13



making music

Concert Series



Virtual Series Continues with Organ Recital December 10

Frederick Teardo (*above*), the Advent's Director of Music and Organist, will present a recital of seasonal organ music on Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m., on the 100-rank Grieb-Williams Organ. The concert will be livestreamed from the Advent on AdventBirmingham.org/Live and associated digital platforms. If you miss the performance, it will be available on our website archive following the event.

Please join us for some Advent and Christmas cheer!

Midday Music

Harpist Judy Sullivan Hicks to Perform December 18

Our next Midday Music concert will feature a 30-minute performance of music for harp by Judy Sullivan Hicks on Friday, December 18, at 12:30 p.m. in the Nave.

Ms. Hicks has been the Principal Harpist of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra since 1981. She has appeared as a soloist with the ASO and Tuscaloosa Symphony, and maintains a busy teaching studio in Birmingham.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Intercessory Prayer Available at the Advent House

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

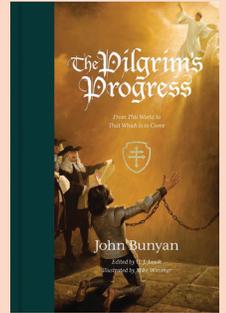
Parish-Wide Reading

The Pilgrim's Progress this Week:

Watch Concluding Video by Dean Pearson

We're glad you joined us on this journey with Christian to the Celestial City and our great and gracious King! Dean Pearson's concluding video will be posted on our web page (AdventBirmingham.org/Pilgrim) this Sunday, December 6, under "Week 13." Small Group discussion questions can also be found there. The Biblical passages are Ephesians 3:14-21 and 2 Corinthians 13:11-14.

In this video, Andrew will also give us a brief overview of *Pilgrim's Progress Part II: Christiana's Story*. (An interesting fact: The words of Mr. Standfast at the conclusion of *Pilgrim's Progress Part II* were read at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's funeral on April 9, 2002.)



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, December 6: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
- Isaiah 40:10-11

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

- Psalm 85:9-10

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- 2 Peter 3:8-9

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. Canon Katherine P. Jacob, Honorary Canon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

transitions:

Baptisms: Jackson Bridger Neal, son of Jackson and Tiffany, on November 22; William Prestwood Braswell, son of Joseph and Abby, on November 24

Marriages: April Nicole Walsh and Harrison Phillips Hyde, on September 19; Eulalie Crommelin Given and John Grady Welden, on November 21

Death: Justin Fuller, on November 23

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frances Estes Seibels: (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Tynes Quarles; Jane and Harold Goings; Bama and David Mills

Lucille "Sis" Levin: (Endowment Fund) by St. Bridget's Guild

In Memory of the Saints Who Left Us: William "Brother" S. Pritchard, Jr.; Richard L. Smalley; Charles Richard Saunders; James David Brown, Jr.: (Mission and Outreach) by Kathie and Frank Taylor



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.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 6 Coat Drive Indoor Worship - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m. Jr. High Progressive Dinner at 5:00 p.m.; Sr. High at 6:57 p.m.	7	8 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	9 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	10 Concert Series: Fred Teardo, organ - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 7:00 p.m.	11	12
Dec 13 Indoor Worship - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m.	14	15 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	16 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	17 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 5:30 p.m.	18 Midday Music: Judy Sullivan Hicks, harp - Nave - 12:30 p.m.	19

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.