

# Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 45

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Week of December 20, 2020



## News & Events

### Christmas Service Schedule

**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

**8:00 p.m. Holy Communion**

Organ and Choir led

**Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24**

**3:00 p.m. Family Service**

**5:30 p.m. Holy Communion**

Band led – *Service also livestreamed*

**8:00 p.m. Holy Communion**

Organ and Choir led – *Service also livestreamed*

**Christmas Day: Friday, December 25**

**10:00 a.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

*Recorded stream only – no congregation*

Registration to attend these services in person is closed – attendance is limited due to Covid-19. We invite all who cannot attend to join our streaming services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live). See page 2 for details.

## A Word from the Dean

In 1741, Deism, the belief that God was an impersonal being who stood apart from his creation and let things take their course, was a powerful force in England. Many within the Church of England began to espouse such unbiblical views, and their effects were being seen far and wide.

In response, a wealthy patron of the arts and clergyman, Charles Jennens, sat down and wrote out the lyrics of a work he entitled, *Messiah*. He sent it along to his friend George Frideric Handel, who set the words to music.

We often hear *Messiah* this time of year. “Unto us a child is born” plays in the background as we unwrap gifts or prepare Christmas dinners. Performances of it occur in churches and concert halls leading up to Christmas. But of course, *Messiah* is not just about the coming of the Lord Jesus as an infant born in Bethlehem, but the entire story of salvation.

*Messiah* reminds us, from the words of the Bible, that God is not an uninterested or disinterested observer in human events, but he is intimately involved in bringing about his plans and purposes, namely that we might come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and experience salvation through him.

Jesus did not come into the world to give us a vague and general feeling of joy and peace, and certainly not just for a season, but he came in order to die so that we might be reconciled to God. And as he has been raised from the dead, he now reigns, as the Hallelujah chorus reminds us, as “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Most of us are familiar with Westminster Chimes: the chiming of the bells that notes the quarters of the hour from the great bell tower at the houses of Parliament in London. The sound has been replicated in grandfather clocks throughout the world. There is a plaque in the tower that reads, “All through this hour, Lord, be my guide/ That by Thy Power/ No foot shall slide.” It’s a quote from Handel’s *Messiah*. And the music the bells toll? Taken from the part where we sing, “I know my Redeemer Liveth...” So every time you hear the chimes, you’re being told, being reminded, that your Redeemer Jesus Christ lives.

Jennens and Handel remind us from the words of the Bible that Jesus has come into the world to give his life for you, to be raised for you, and to reconcile you to God. Joy and peace, not just for a season, but for eternity.

Merry Christmas, Andrew

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**  
- Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

## This Sunday:

December 20, 2020

**9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer**

(Band led)

**11:15 a.m. Morning Prayer**

(Organ and Choir led)

Preacher: Mark Gignilliat

Register to attend at [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship).

We will livestream both services, at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship). Recordings of classes are available at [Audio.AdventBirmingham.org](http://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

**Veiled in Flesh: Christ Comes for Sinners** (Chapter Room) – Gil Kracke

**Understanding 2020: A Year of Grievous** (Living Room) – Cameron Cole

### 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. 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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship).

Watch for information from Tucker Fleming regarding Junior High class this Sunday. Senior High will not meet for the rest of the semester. Watch for news about locations and times for class in 2021.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



## worship

### Christmas Services

**Registration Closed for In-Person Attendance;  
Streaming Services Offered Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

Our schedule of Christmas services to be held in our Nave is listed on the front page of this issue. Dean Pearson will preach at all services except the Family Service, where Cameron Cole will preach.

As of press time, no spots remain available to attend these services in person. (Attendance numbers are limited due to Covid-19 restrictions.) We invite all who cannot attend to join our streaming services. We will livestream our two Communion services on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. 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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our streaming worship services.

There will be no nursery or childcare available at any of the Christmas week services.

### The Music of Christmas

**Special Music Offered Before Christmas Communion Services**

We will have 30 minutes of pre-service Christmas music before all of the services of Holy Communion during Christmas week, December 21-24. Come a half-hour early to hear the music of Christmas from our musicians in the Cathedral Choir and the Advent Birmingham band.

### A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Service to Be Streamed Christmas Day**



This year, the Cathedral Choir will lead a special prerecorded service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which will be aired on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. on [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://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.



## serving & outreach

### 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](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8558).

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 20, the Wahl family, Tyler and Brooke, Charlotte (Kindergarten), Hobbs (4K), and Alice (Nursery), will light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath at the beginning of the 9:15 a.m. service.

### Lectionary

Sunday, December 20: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

### New Audio Website Is Online

Our new and improved Advent Audio website is up at [Audio.AdventBirmingham.org](http://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](http://AdventBirmingham.org)) by clicking on "Media" at the top of the page and then clicking on "Listen."

### Christmas Closings

The Church Office will be closed from Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, through Monday, December 28. The office will reopen on Tuesday, December 29. The Advent Bookstore will be open on Sunday, December 27.

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



## serving & outreach

### Coat Drive

#### Successful Drive Benefits Brother Bryan Mission



Above: Mary Katherine Malone and Caroline Reynolds helped unload and organize all donated items.

Thanks to everyone who donated to and helped with our Drop-Off Coat Drive on December 6. In addition to coats, the Advent received socks, underwear, pants, and other cold-weather items. We were able to deliver 28 bags of donated clothing to the men at Brother Bryan Mission.

Below: Cora, Allan, and Kate Causey picked up and delivered clothing to Brother Bryan Mission.



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

Dean Andrew Pearson will set aside an extended period of time to pray for our Advent family of faith January 11-13. 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](mailto:Andrew@CathedralAdvent.com).

### The Schneiders' Last Sunday at the Advent Is December 27

Canon Matt Schneider and his family's last Sunday with us will be December 27. They will move to Springfield, Massachusetts, early next year, where they will join the team at Biglife, an international ministry that seeks to empower believers worldwide to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus.

Canon Schneider will preach at both services, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., on December 27, and Dean Pearson will interview him in the Dean's Class at 10:15 a.m. Matt and members of his family will be on the front steps of the church (on 20th Street) before and after each service to greet parishioners. Covid-19 restrictions prevent us from holding a reception indoors.

We invite Adventers to support the Schneiders' ministry by making a contribution in their honor to Biglife. Online gifts can be made at [BigLife/Team/Matt-Schneider](https://BigLife/Team/Matt-Schneider). Contributions by mail can be made out to Biglife, PO Box 110431, Naples, FL 34108. Please write "Matt Schneider" in the memo line of your check.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.  
- John 1:14

**Advent House:** Intercessory prayer is on-going through the Advent House Prayer Ministry. To schedule a prayer session, call Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622.

## 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:

**Birth:** Amelia Jean Rosa Thompson, daughter of Nicholas and Cherish, on December 3

**Marriage:** Mary Meadows Livingston and Jason Patton, on December 5

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Saidee Huey Gardner:** (Garden Fund) by Nancy Poynor • (Pastoral Care) by Mary K Wilson

**Lee Baldwin:** (Garden Fund) by Mary Ellen Clark

**J.D. Brown, Jr.:** (Endowment Fund) by the DeBardeleben Foundation

**Jerry and Sis Levin:** (Endowment Fund) by the DeBardeleben Foundation

**In Thanksgiving for the Marriage of Russ Levenson and Trudy Evans:** (Pastoral Care) by Mary K Wilson



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 20 Morning Prayer - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m.	21 Holy Communion - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	22 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	23 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Holy Communion - Nave - 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion - Nave - 8:00 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Church Office closed Family Service - Nave - 3:00 p.m. Holy Communion - Nave - 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion - Nave - 8:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Church Office closed A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 10:00 a.m.	26
Dec 27 Morning Prayer - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m.	28 Church Office closed	29 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	30 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church Office closed	2

**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.

**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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Give).