

Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 45, No. 19

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Week of May 9, 2021



News & Events

Farewell for Dean Pearson, Reception for the Pearsons May 16

As the wardens wrote in their letter to the parish several days ago, Andrew Pearson's last Sunday as the Dean and Rector of the Advent will be May 16. He will preach at both the 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. services, and will also lead the Dean's Class that day. We will have a reception for Andrew, Lauren, and their girls at 12:15 p.m. in the Rector's Garden.

The Vestry has asked Craig Smalley to serve as our Interim Dean and Rector; Craig has graciously accepted that call. The Vestry also asked Gil Kracke to continue in his role as our Director of Ministries, functioning as our chief operating officer. Lastly, Don Menendez has been asked to lead the search committee to call Dean Pearson's successor.

Andrew came to the Advent as our Canon for Parish Life in 2011, before becoming our Dean and Rector in 2014. For nearly 10 years he has had a vibrant ministry among us, as he has faithfully pastored us as our shepherd and leader. Lives have been changed by the gospel under Andrew's tenure. His preaching and teaching will be dearly missed.

(continues on page 2)



A Word from Canon Hicks

Everything has gotten so loud. I can't stop the noise. Do you hear all the "shoulds" like I do? Everywhere I go, every interaction I have, every online connection, every TV show or commercial, every song... a compelling case, or just a straightforward plea, for what I ought to be doing. I ought to be more conscious, more politically engaged, more tolerant, more compassionate, more benevolent, more outraged, more worried, more calm. I need to work harder, or rest better.

The difficulty for the Christian in response to all these "shoulds" is that some, maybe many, of them are things close to the heart of God, things he cares about. Justice. Wellness. Politics. Vocation. Ecology. Virtue. Sabbath. So I find myself drawn to them and yet a bit overwhelmed by their demand. I can't shake them. They *are* important. But I also can't keep up. Can you?

These days, when I get to that overwhelmed place, I go back to that center-

ing word that really does cut through the noise. Two millennia ago, the apostle Paul was fighting off his own version of the noise. He had many voices in his ear and in his head, telling him what he should be doing and how he should be doing it. So he made what appears to be a resolution with himself – kind of like a New Year's resolution, but without the time stamp. He said, "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). I find this kind of clarity helpfully focusing.

What might it look like for us to make a similar resolution in chaotic times like these? One simple step might be to begin our day (whether with a phone notification or a note on the mirror) with the simple prayer, "Holy Spirit, hold before me today Christ and him crucified." Or, in other words, "Spirit, preach the gospel to me!" Perhaps the Holy Spirit's gift of *that* can provide a helpful framework for response to all the other voices that will demand our attention and response throughout the rest of the day.

- Zac

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

- Psalm 119:50

This Sunday:

May 9, 2021

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
(Band led)

11:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
(Organ and Choir led)

Preacher: Wes Sharp

Registering to attend is necessary at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

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

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 Exodus of the People of God (Chapters 25-31)* – Dean Pearson

Beginning at the Beginning (Chapter Room) – *The God of Jacob (Genesis 25-26)* – Doug Webster

The Theology of the Acts of the Apostles (Living Room) – Osvaldo Padilla

Springtime Psalms (Assembly Hall) – Mark Gignilliat

Children's & Youth Education:

Sunday School for 3K through 5th graders will be held at the church, 10:15-11:00 a.m. We will offer children's programming for 3K-3rd grade during the 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. services. 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.

Junior High and Senior High classes will meet 10:15-11:00 a.m., with 6th graders joining the Junior High in Lower Morton and Senior High meeting in the Undercroft.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

(Pearsons, cont.)

Please join us on May 16 for the reception in the Rector's Garden, as we express our appreciation and gratitude to Andrew, Lauren, and their girls. And please join all of your brothers and sisters in Christ, praying for our church, as it continues steadfastly in the word of life which is the gospel.



servicing & outreach

Advent Inreach

Opportunity to Assist Fellow Parishioners with Transportation

Often times one of our parishioners needs a ride for a doctor's appointment, an errand, or to church. Would you like to be part of a "team" which would provide help with transportation on occasion? There are opportunities to serve on weekdays and weekends.

For some this is a crucial need; for many it offers a wonderful way to meet and connect with members you may not know!

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Stella Schreiber (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8558).

Tuesday-Morning Outreach

Prayer Walk Followed by Bible Study

Our Tuesday-morning service is on hold for the next few months as we seek the Lord through prayer walking around our neighborhood. As attendance at the service has decreased because of COVID-19, we have a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors where they are – literally! For the past few weeks a small group of people has been gathering on the steps outside the Nave at 8:00 a.m., splitting into groups of two or three, and walking around the streets surrounding the church. After walking for 30 minutes, the group then moves into a Discovery Bible Study in the Living Room, beginning at 8:45 a.m.

If you have a heart for our city and a little free time, we invite you to join us on Tuesdays for the prayer walk, Bible study, or both! Please pray that the Lord will give us clarity in how we can best care for those in our midst. Contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, May 9: Psalm 98
Acts 10:44-48
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17



worship

Choral Evensong



Service for Ascension Day Set for May 13

The Cathedral Choir will sing Choral Evensong for Ascension Day on Thursday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. Evensong, a sung version of the Evening Prayer service, is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through prayer and praise. Canon Smalley will preach.

To register for in-person attendance, please visit [Advent Birmingham.org/Worship](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship), starting Friday, May 7. The concert will also be livestreamed on AdventBirmingham.org/Live and associated digital platforms.

Come join us in celebration of the Ascension of our Lord, and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Youth Ministry

Jr. High Mystery Trip Set for July 13-15

All rising 7th-9th graders are invited to come July 13-15 when we will travel together to a place you'll find out about as soon as we get there! Cost is \$275, and financial help is available. Register at AdventBirmingham.org/Youth. Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Sr. High Mystery Trip July 20-22

The beloved Mystery Trip is back! All current 9th-12th graders are invited on this journey July 20-22. Where are we going? That's for us to know and you to find out. (We will let parents know our destination before we depart.) This trip is always a ton of fun and is a great community builder in our youth group. Cost is \$275, and financial assistance is available. Register at AdventBirmingham.org/Youth. Contact Rebecca (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for details.

(Jesus prayed to the Father) "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent (those you have given me) into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth." - John 17:18-19

Interested in Adult Confirmation?

Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama, will be with us for Confirmation on Sunday, May 23. She will witness the Confirmation of our 6th-grade confirmands during the 9:15 a.m. service and several adults during the 11:15 a.m. service. Confirmation is the formal way of joining the church and is usually offered once a year. Adults who have attended the Inquirers' Class are invited to participate in this Confirmation service. If you are interested, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).



education

Children's Sunday School

Changes Under Phase II of Transition Plan

Phase II of our Sunday Transition Plan began May 2, and it includes changes to our Sunday School program.

The age threshold for our Nursery has been lowered to include infants, and the Nursery now is open to infants, toddlers, and 2-year-olds.

In Phase II, the main Sunday School time for 3K-3rd graders is from 10:15-11:00 a.m., when youth and adults are also in classes. This is the time your children are immersed in weekly Bible lessons and theology. Therefore, we highly encourage families to sign up and attend during this hour. Children's programming for 3K-3rd grade is offered during the 9:15 and 11:15 worship services and consists of constructive reinforcement of Christian education through games, fellowship, and grade-level goals. 3K-3rd grade children will participate in a portion of the worship service at a later phase.

Classes for 4th and 5th grade continue to meet from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Students in 6th grade now attend the Junior High classes, meeting in Lower Morton, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Registration is still required for the Nursery and children's classes and programming. Sign-ups are emailed by Tara Davis on Monday mornings. Contact Tara (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Youth Sunday School

Jr. and Sr. High Classes Are Back

We are so excited to offer again weekly Junior and Senior High Sunday School. We are back and better than ever! Sixth graders join 7th and 8th grade students for Junior High class in the Lower Morton Meeting Room from 10:15-11:00 a.m. All 9-12th graders meet for Senior High class in the Undercroft at the same time. Registration is not necessary to attend youth classes, but masks are required.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whomever has been born of him.

- 1 John 5:1



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent House Prayer Ministry



Intercessory Prayer Is Available In Person or Via Zoom

Turning to God, we pray on behalf of everyone who comes to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. Putting our trust and hope in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we pray together for Jesus' perfect healing – in his way and in his timing – that gives the light of life to all who come to him.

We are offering prayer sessions at the Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205) and virtually via Zoom. At this time a safety protocol of wearing face masks and physical distancing is in place. If you would like to schedule a prayer appointment, please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com). *John 10:7-11*



bookstore



Thinking About a Confirmation Gift?

Pictured above are some new jewelry items just received in the Bookstore that would make great Confirmation gifts. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, May 23, at the 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. services.

Store hours are Sunday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Masks are required. Contact Ann Campbell (Ann@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions, or call the store at 205-323-2959.

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop 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:

Birth: Frances Cameron Estes, daughter of Claude and Cameron, on April 10

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

John B. Godwin: (Endowment Fund) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner

Ann Turner Hull: (Endowment Fund) by Doris and Jim Wilson; Thomasene and Stephen Collins

Richard McManus: (Endowment Fund) by Bill Smith

Isabel Elmore Bradley: (Mission and Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Canada • (Pastoral Care) by Donald and Katharine Patton

Delores Threlkeld Harbuck: (Pastoral Care) by Bryan F. Helm



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 9 Morning Prayer - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Christian Education - 10:15 a.m.	10	11 Prayer Walk - Nave - 8:00 a.m. Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	12 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	13 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Choral Evensong for Ascension Day - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	14	15
May 16 Morning Prayer - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Christian Education - 10:15 a.m. Reception for the Pearsons - Rector's Garden - 12:15 p.m.	17	18 Prayer Walk - Nave - 8:00 a.m. Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	19 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	20 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	21	22

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.