



**CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**  
**IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM**



ELEVEN O'CLOCK  
DECEMBER 10, 2023  
*The Second Sunday of Advent*  
Morning Prayer

# VOLUNTARY

Johann Sebastian Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

THE PEOPLE STAND.

## HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 61

*Wachet auf*

## OPENING SENTENCES

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*-Isaiah 40:3*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

## THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

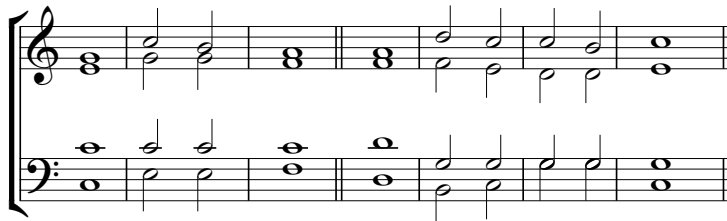
**People:** And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

# INVITATORY: VENITE WITH CHORAL ANTIPHON

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 44

*Richard Goodson*



THE CHOIR SINGS AN OPENING ANTIPHON, THEN THE CONGREGATION SINGS:

- 1 O come let us sing | unto the | Lord :  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of | our sal|va|tion.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with | thanks|giving :  
and show ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God :  
and a great | king a|bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the corners | of the | earth :  
and the strength of the hills is | his | al|so.
- 5 The sea is | his and • he | made it :  
and his hands pre|pared the | dry| land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down :  
and kneel before the | Lord our | ma|ker.
- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God :  
and we are the people of his pasture \* and the | sheep of | his | hand.
- 8 O worship the Lord in the | beauty • of | holiness :  
let the whole earth | stand in | awe of | him.
- 9 For he cometh \* for he cometh to | judge the | earth :  
and with righteousness to judge the world \* and the | peoples| with his | truth.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land;  
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
- 2 Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people,  
and covered all their sins.
- 8 I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me;  
for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints,  
that they turn not again.
- 9 For his salvation is nigh them that fear him;  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together:  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth,  
and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.
- 12 Yea, the Lord shall show loving-kindness;  
and our land shall give her increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him,  
and he shall direct his going in the way.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>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. (40:1-11)

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.



1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers! And let your lights ap - pear;
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil;
3. O wise and ho - ly vir - gins, Now raise your voic - es higher,
4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.  
 Un - til in songs of tri - umph Ye meet the an - gel choir.  
 A - rise, thou Sun so longed for, A - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he will draw nigh;  
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, The gates wide op - en stand;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.  
 Go meet him as he com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry! The Bride - groom is at hand.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion, And ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, alt.; Music: Johann Michael Haydn

THE PEOPLE SIT.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO ST. MARK.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (1:1-8)

Reader:     The Word of the Lord.

**People:     Thanks be to God.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 54

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 53

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 54*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## SUFFRAGES

*PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 55*

- Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
**People: And grant us thy salvation.**
- Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
**People: And make thy chosen people joyful.**
- Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**People: For only in thee can we live in safety.**
- Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
**People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
- Officiant: Let thy way be known upon earth;  
**People: Thy saving health among all nations.**
- Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
- Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People: And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECTS

*PRAYER BOOK, PAGES 56-57*

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 58*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.**

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE SIT.

## THE WELCOME

THE PEOPLE STAND.

## HYMN NO. 65

*Bereden väg för Herran*

## THE SERMON

Vice Dean Murray

# AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM

George Frideric Handel

from *Messiah*

And he shall purify the sons of Levi,  
that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

-*Malachi 3:3*

*Messiah*, the great oratorio by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), describes the person of Christ through a libretto written by Charles Jennens (1700-1773), who compiled texts from both the King James Version of the Bible and the Prayer Book Psalter. Today's Offertory anthem is the second chorus in Part I of *Messiah*.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

## THE DOXOLOGY

*Old 100th*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

## CLOSING PRAYERS AND THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

## HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 66

*Stuttgart*

## THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

IF YOU DESIRE, KNEEL FOR A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER.

VOLUNTARY    O Clavis David, from *O Antiphon Sequence*    Cecilia McDowall

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Dice K. Lineberry

*by Lynda Lineberry*

Barbara Quick Hickman

*by Valerie H. Merrill*

*Mr. and Mrs. James C. Smith*

## ADULT EDUCATION

*Adult Classes take place from 10:15 to 10:50 a.m. and will be available online at [Audio.AdventBirmingham.org](http://Audio.AdventBirmingham.org).*

**The Dean's Class** (Refectory) – *Understanding Israel: A Postscript* – Jason Wallace

**My God, My Life, My Holy Delight** (Chapter Room) – “*Did not our hearts burn within us?*”  
(*Luke 24*) – Gil Kracke

**The Message of Isaiah and the World Today** (Living Room) – Dennis Sansom

**Faith and Family** (Assembly Hall) – *Kids, Tech, and Truth: Insta-Envy and Gratitude* –  
Cameron Cole

## NEXT SUNDAY • DECEMBER 17, 2023

Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer and Pageant at 9:00 a.m. *in the Nave*

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. *in the Refectory*

Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.

## CLERGY

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*For email addresses and phone numbers, please see our staff listing at [AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org).*

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley	<i>Dean and Rector</i>
The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray	<i>Vice Dean</i>
The Rev. Canon James “Jay” W. Gardner, III	<i>Canon Pastor</i>
The Rev. Canon Adam A. Young	<i>Canon Missioner</i>

## MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

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Jack Sharman <i>Senior Warden</i>	Edmund Doss <i>Junior Warden</i>	Hewes Hull <i>Treasurer</i>	James Bradford <i>Clerk</i>
<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2024</i>	<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2025</i>	<i>Term Ending Parish Meeting 2026</i>	
Jim Andrews	Edmund Doss	Craig Brady	
Russ Chambliss	Elizabeth Fitzpatrick	Richard Cook	
Jim Dixon	D Franklin	Charles Gaston	
David Fleming	LaVonda Keel	Kelly Hulsey	
Ron Flowers	Steven Nichols	Josh Menendez	
Ginger Mayfield	Beeland Nielsen	Claiborne Morris	
Mary Berkeley Pritchard	Britt Thames	Emily Pruet	
Jack Sharman	Browning Thornton	Charlie Sharp	
Robin Wade	Jim Williams	Jason Wallace	
Ann Bailey White	Meg Wilson	Forsyth White	

## CONTACT

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CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT  
2017 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203  
205 251-2324; [ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG](http://ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG)



## STAFF

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Cameron Cole	<i>Director of Children, Youth, and Family</i>
Tara Davis	<i>Director of Children's and Nursery Ministries</i>
Will Fagan	<i>Boys Youth Director</i>
Leslie Housman	<i>Director of Women's Ministries</i>
Mallory Johnson	<i>Assistant in Worship</i>
Charles Kennedy	<i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i>
Gil Kracke	<i>Director of Ministries and Programs</i>
Kathy Logue	<i>Advent House Coordinator</i>
Mary Ann McCarty	<i>Girls Youth Director</i>
Gunter Owens	<i>Associate Director of Children's Ministries</i>
Fontaine Pope	<i>Director of Small Groups and Newcomers' Coordinator</i>
Stella Schreiber	<i>Pastoral Care Associate</i>
Fred Teardo	<i>Director of Music and Organist</i>
Ann Campbell	<i>Bookstore Manager</i>
Janet Dozier	<i>Receptionist</i>
Anita Gray	<i>Outreach Administrative Assistant</i>
Bryan Helm	<i>Administrator</i>
Brad Horne	<i>Building Manager</i>
Spencer Leffel	<i>Associate Director of Publications</i>
Beth Anne Maier	<i>Accounts Receivable</i>
Chris Maxwell	<i>Associate Director of Communications</i>
Betsy Pate	<i>Music Administrative Assistant</i>
Margaret Pope	<i>Assistant to the Dean and Vice Dean</i>
Kellie Rambin	<i>Accounts Payable</i>
Will Sledge	<i>Director of Communications</i>
Robin Turner	<i>Pastoral Care Administrative Assistant</i>
Dorothy White	<i>Assistant Administrator</i>
Eldon Brummett, Drew Foster, Chris Hines, Juan Mazuca, Gary Talley, Kevin Talley	<i>Sexton Staff</i>





*Come to me,  
all who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

The Church of the Advent was founded with the City of Birmingham in 1872.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT (EPISCOPAL)  
2017 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203  
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