



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



FIVE O'CLOCK
DECEMBER 10, 2023
The Second Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion

PRELUDE

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

Even So Come

All of creation, all of the earth,
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;
Jesus is coming soon.
Call back the sinner, wake up the saint;
Let every nation shout of your fame;
Jesus is coming soon.

*Refrain: Like a bride waiting for her groom,
Make us a church ready for you;
Every heart, longing for our King, we sing:
Even so come, Lord Jesus come.*

There will be justice, all will be new;
Your name forever, faithful and true;
Jesus is coming soon. *Refrain*

So we wait, we wait for you;
God, we wait; you're coming soon. *Refrain*

Words & Music: Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates, Jason Ingram ©2015 sixsteps Sonngs, Worship Together, S.D.G. Publishing, Go Mia Music, Chrissamsongs Inc. (Admin Capitol CMG) Open Hands Music, Sony/ATV Timber Publishing (Admin Sony ATV), Vistaville Music CCLI #1620861

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 323

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

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 PEOPLE SIT.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A 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. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go 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!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins releases us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744 (stanzas 1, 4) ; Mark E. Hunt, 1978 (stanzas 2-3) Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855 Stanzas 2-3
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THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MARK.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (1:1-8)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Dean Smalley

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE NICENE CREED

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 327

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

maker of all things, judge of all men:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,

which we from time to time most grievously have committed,

by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,

provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;

the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,

forgive us all that is past;

and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

-Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

-John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

-1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

-1 John 2:1-2

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME

AT THE OFFERTORY

God With Us

You've come to bring peace, to be love,
To be nearer to us.
You've come to bring life, to be light,
To shine brighter in us.
O Emmanuel, God with us.

*Refrain: Our Deliverer, you are Savior;
In your presence we find our strength.
Over everything, our redemption;
God with us, you are God with us.*

You've come to be hope to this world,
For your honor and name.
And you've come to take sin, to bear shame,
And to conquer the grave.
O Emmanuel, God with us. *Refrain*

You are here,
You are holy,
We are standing in your glory. *Refrain*

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THE PEOPLE STAND.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all bles-sings flow. Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low. Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host. Praise Fath-er, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost! A - men!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 333

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

[A proper preface is added here.] Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav - en and earth are full of Your glo - ry.
Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry be to Thee;
Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord Most High.

Words: Book of Common Prayer, alt. Music: Zac Hicks ©2016 Unbudding Fig Music (ASCAP)

THE PEOPLE KNEEL OR SIT, AS THE CELEBRANT CONTINUES WITH THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are warmly invited to receive Communion. You may receive both the bread and the wine. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms across your chest after receiving the bread. If you wish to receive the wine, you may do so either by drinking from the cup or by dipping the bread in the small intinction vessel inside the cup. In either instance, the chalice bearer will help direct you. (If you have not been baptized, but would like to be, please see one of the ministers following the service.)

SONG

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer,
Greatest treasure of my longing soul;
My God, like you there is no other,
True delight is found in you alone.
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach;
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,
My highest good and my unending need.

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer,
Strong defender of my weary heart;
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver,
And my shield against his hateful darts.
My song when enemies surround me,
My hope when tides of sorrow rise,
My joy when trials are abounding,
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer,
Gracious Savior of my ruined life;
My guilt and cross laid on your shoulders,
In my place you suffered, bled and died.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered,
You broke my bonds of sin and shame;
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer,
May all my days bring glory to your Name.

Music and Words by Nathan Stiff © 2017 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP) Sovereign Grace Music CCLI #1620861

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

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.

SONG

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower:
Raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Irish hymn, 8th c. Traditional Irish melody Public Domain

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

POSTLUDE



CLERGY

For email addresses and phone numbers, please see our staff listing at 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>

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Russ Chambliss	Elizabeth Fitzpatrick	Richard Cook	
Jim Dixon	D Franklin	Charles Gaston	
David Fleming	LaVonda Keel	Kelly Hulsey	
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CONTACT

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
2017 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203
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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>
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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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