

# Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Advent



Vol. 47, No. 45

Third Sunday of Advent

Week of December 17, 2023



## News & Events

### Christmas Pageant Is this Sunday at 9:00



Continuing an Advent tradition, our 5th and 6th graders will bless our 9:00 a.m. service in the Nave with the annual Christmas Pageant performance this Sunday, December 17.

## Christmas Service Schedule

### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

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

Preacher: Cameron Cole

#### 5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Nave)

Preacher: Dean Smalley

#### 5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Refectory)

Preacher: Canon Young

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

Preacher: Dean Smalley

#### 10:25 p.m. The Music of Christmas

#### 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

#### 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

See page 2 for a more detailed schedule.



## A Word from Canon Young

The late, great Tom Petty sang “The waiting is the hardest part.” Waiting really is difficult, which I suspect is why the Lord graciously gave us the season known as Advent. It gives voice to the feeling of anticipation of what is to come. All of December buzzes with the youthful excitement of the build-up to presents and Santa and all the festivity of Christmas. Yet waiting also characterizes life’s expectation of change. Getting called to the counter at the DMV. Awaiting the letter of acceptance or rejection to a college or job. Waiting even captures the dreadful heaviness of wanting to finally know some significant outcome. The text from a loved one that they arrived safely at their destination. The call from the oncologist with biopsy results.

Advent captures the core experience of our Christian hope: waiting – waiting for relief, for rescue, for a breakthrough. Recalling the first Advent of Christ in the man-

ger and longing for the second Advent of Christ’s return, bringing a new heaven and a new earth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor martyred under Hitler’s Nazi regime, wrote that Advent is like “a prison cell, in which one waits, hopes – and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside.” He wrote these palpable words from a jail cell awaiting the gas chamber. While our circumstances are not quite so stark, our location is not altogether fundamentally different from Bonhoeffer’s. Shackled in a world of sin and death, we eagerly await full and final deliverance from the God who overcame the grave.

This Advent, join me in anticipating God making all things new through the Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ. Join the lonely and the weary and the desperate and the broken in our common prayer for “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” God promises to bring deliverance. “If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay” (Habakkuk 2:3a). Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

- Adam

**For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

- Romans 8:24-25

## This Sunday:

December 17, 2023

#### 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

#### 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Gardner

#### 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

#### 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

#### 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

We will livestream the 9:00 Nave, 11:00, and 5:00 services.

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

#### Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

**The Dean’s Class** (Refectory) – *Christmas at the Movies: Grace and Truth Through Jesus Christ* – Craig Smalley and Jay Gardner

**Good News for a Weary World** (Chapter Room) – Gil Kracke

**Longing in a Time of Plenty: Why We Need Advent** (Living Room) – Adam Young

**Faith and Family** (Assembly Hall) – *How to Communicate the Significance of Christmas to Our Kids* – Cameron Cole

#### Children’s & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00 a.m. Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children’s dismissal to meet teachers in Clingman Commons. Children in 4th grade and higher and youth have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. See Sunday’s service bulletin for details.

The Nursery opens for our Infants, Toddlers, and 2s classes at 8:45 a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6 weeks-5 years during the 11:00 service.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



## worship

### A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



#### Traditional Service to Be Offered December 21

On Thursday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. the Cathedral Choir will offer A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, modeled after the service held annually at King's College, Cambridge. The Christmas narrative is told through Scripture and song – a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons. Whether you are on your way home from working downtown, or simply looking for an opportunity to hear some seasonal music and the gospel, all are warmly invited to attend this weeknight service.

### Christmas Service Schedule

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

##### •3:00 p.m. Family Service

Preacher: Cameron Cole

Nursery for 2s class and younger

##### •5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Nave)

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Nursery for ages 5 and younger

##### •5:00 p.m. Holy Communion (Refectory)

Preacher: Canon Young

Nursery for ages 5 and under

##### •8:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Nursery for ages 5 and under

##### •10:25 p.m. The Music of Christmas

Musical prelude to the 11:00 service from the Cathedral Choir

##### •11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Nursery closed

#### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

##### •10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Nursery closed

The Cathedral Choir and organ, brass, and timpani will lead music at the 5:00 Nave, 8:00, and 11:00 services on Christmas Eve. The Advent Band will lead music at the 5:00 Refectory service.

The Cathedral Choir and organ will lead music at the 10:00 service on Christmas Day.



## serving & outreach

### Advent Inreach

#### Volunteers Needed to Deliver Poinsettias 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, following the Christmas



Day service, which is on Monday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. Poinsettias will need to be picked up Christmas morning around 11:00 a.m, but can be delivered any time on Christmas Day. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Stella Schreiber ([Stella@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8558).

### Lenten Lunches

#### Our Series Needs Your Help

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, but Lenten Lunches teams are assembling now – contact Miriam Morris ([JcMMbM@gmail.com](mailto:JcMMbM@gmail.com)) or LaVonda Keel ([LaVondaKeel@gmail.com](mailto:LaVondaKeel@gmail.com)) if you'd like to help. No experience necessary. All training provided. Variety of schedules available. And... So. Much. Grace. Join the team for a great opportunity to make new friends while serving your church and community! *Can't make it up to the church each week to work? We have opportunities for you to serve from home, too!*

#### Lunch Tickets Available

*Making your list and checking it twice?* Give the gift of fabulous preaching and a delicious meal! Tickets for a single meal or a series of meals are available for sale in the bookstore now through Lent!

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 17, the Millsap family, Laura and Temp, Julia (5th grade), Sallie (3rd grade), Fitz (Kindergarten), and Paul (3K), will lead the lighting of the third candle on our Nave Advent wreath at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. service.

In the Refectory service, the Tuck family, Hunter and Ben, Tabb (8th grade), Luke (6th grade), Grace (6th grade), and Bet Bet (3rd grade), will lead the lighting of the third candle on our Advent wreath at 9:00 a.m.

**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.



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



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### 20s & 30s Ministry

#### Group to Attend A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Followed by Dinner

Adventers in their 20s and 30s are invited to attend the Cathedral Choir's offering of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 21. This beautiful service is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons, hearing the Christmas story told through Scripture and song. Meet Will Fagan at the church on the 20th Street steps at 5:15 p.m., and we will find a place to sit together before the service starts at 5:30. We hope you will join us for dinner at Back Forty (3201 1st Avenue North, 35222) immediately following. Contact Will for more information ([Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com)).

### Women's Ministries

#### Join the Women of the Advent in January

We live in a click-to-buy, same-day delivery, binge-watching society. But our freedom in the gospel means we can view consumption differently – less as getting and more as receiving with joy and celebration, rather than as slaves to “stuff.”

Join us Thursday, January 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Cranmer House as Dr. Gisela Kreglinger-Smith shares *Being Consumed*. Gisela will help us understand how we can “consume redemptively” through three teachings. We will enjoy one course of a delicious, well-sourced meal in between each of Gisela's teachings.

Please register soon so we can plan for food. Registration is available through your Realm account, at [AdventBirmingham.org/Women](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Women), or by contacting Janet Dozier ([Janet@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Janet@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3503).

#### St. Mary's Guild



Above: Members of St. Mary's Guild gathered on November 30 to hear Gisela Kreglinger-Smith's thoughts on *Discerning God's Voice in Times of Turmoil*. Dr. Kreglinger-Smith emphasized the importance of seeking the Lord when we feel unsettled because often that is when God is “stirring the waters” and working to move in our hearts and our lives. St. Mary's Guild is for women in their 20s and 30s. Contact Kathryn Maxwell ([Kathryn.Maxwell12@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.Maxwell12@gmail.com)) or Mary Jane McAllister ([MaryJaneCarney@gmail.com](mailto:MaryJaneCarney@gmail.com)) for more information.



## worship

### Lectionary: Sunday, December 17

Psalms 126

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## Youth Ministry



Above: On December 3 our youth closed out their semester with the annual Progressive Dinner, a wonderful night of food and fellowship. A special thank-you to the Clapp, Malone, and Anderson families for graciously welcoming our youth into their homes.



## education

### Children's Sunday School



Above: These 4K children are seen building the first temple. On December 3 we learned about the temple and how God's presence was in it. Today we don't need a building to be close with God because he is always with us through the Holy Spirit.

## diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop of Alabama

## advent staff

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean

The Rev. Canon Jay Gardner, Canon Pastor

The Rev. Canon Adam Young, Canon Missioner

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Brenda Smith Flynn:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Ginny and Richard Anthony; Janet Lucas Beck

**James H. Douglas:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Stephen G. Schaeffer

**William R Lucas, Jr.:** (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by William R. Lucas

**Mary K Wilson:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Stephen G. Schaeffer

**Gail Sharp:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Ginny and Richard Anthony; Janet Lucas Beck • (Pastoral Care) by Willard McCall, Jr. • (Endowment Fund) by Trudy and Russell Levenson

**In Honor of Kelly and Duncan Hulsey:** (Mission and Outreach) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner

**In Honor of Peter Thomas Teardo:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Jane Watwood Gibbs



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 17 Regular worship schedule  Christmas Pageant at 9:00 a.m. Nave service	18	19	20	21 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Nave - 5:30 p.m.  20s & 30s Dinner - Back Forty Beer Co. - Following Lessons and Carols service	22	23
Dec 24 Christmas Eve  Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m.  Christmas services are listed on the front page and page 2	25 Christmas Day  Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m.  Church Office closed	26 Church Office closed	27	28	29	30

Monday-Friday (No meeting December 25 and 26): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

**Intercessory Prayer Available at Advent House:** Anyone desiring to seek God in prayer may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. We offer prayer sessions at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205). Please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, [Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com)) to make an appointment or for more information.