

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 47, No. 46

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

Week of December 24, 2023



News & Events



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

Livestream available at AdventBirmingham.org/Live

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

Preacher: Canon Young

8:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

Rebroadcast of 5:00 Nave service available

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

Livestream available



A Word from Canon Gardner

One of the great benefits of serving as Advent Episcopal School Chaplain is having a "front-row seat" to the school's service of Lessons and Carols. This is now my second year of having witnessed this rich tradition. And as always, each reading and carol communicated powerfully the saving purposes of God. But the one carol that struck me most this year was the piece "Mary's Lullaby" by Gale Richard Price. When I first heard this carol at the dress rehearsal, I was caught off guard as to how deeply it would touch me. Thank God there was a box of Kleenex nearby, because I could not stop the stream of tears pouring from my eyes!

Maybe this strong emotional response was in part due to the lovely voices of the children singing it. And maybe too it had something to do with having our infant son in the world now. Both of these circumstances certainly played a part. But I believe the theological message proclaimed in the piece is what ultimately touched me. Mary

is singing this lullaby to the newborn Jesus, repeatedly saying in the refrain "Sleep well, my child; sleep well my tiny babe." In the third stanza she attests, "Your hands will bring healing, your hands will make us whole; your eyes will show compassion, your body a cruel death will know." Cue the water works. This wrecked me. How can a mother face knowing the fate for this child?

God subjected himself to such vulnerability in the Incarnation: the vulnerability of being human, of being an infant, and ultimately of death. Who can fathom this? Who can fathom the words from the prologue of John's Gospel?: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." And the Word did not choose comfort; no the Word chose the humble cradle and the cruel cross. God meets us in the most vulnerable places in order to make us whole. This Christmas I do pray that God meets you with tidings of comfort and joy. And perhaps you will find him where you need him most: in those vulnerable places of your life that need healing and wholeness.

Merry Christmas.

- Jay

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

- John 1:14a

This Sunday:

December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Young

We will livestream the 10:00 service. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

Information about Christmas services is listed above and on page 2.

We will have one service next Sunday, December 31, Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. The regular worship schedule will resume on Sunday, January 7.

Adult Education:

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, December 24. All are invited to enjoy fellowship and coffee in Clingman Commons following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Adult classes also will not meet next Sunday, December 31.

Regular classes will resume on Sunday, January 7.

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes for children and youth will not be held this Sunday, December 24. The Nursery will be open for ages 5 and under at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Classes for children and youth also will not meet next Sunday, December 31. The Nursery will be open for ages 5 and under at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Regular classes will resume on Sunday, January 7.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



worship

Christmas Child Care

Nursery Schedule for Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3:00 p.m. Family Service | Nursery for 2s class and younger |
| 5:00 p.m. Holy Communion | Nursery for ages 5 years and younger |
| 8:00 p.m. Holy Communion | Nursery for ages 5 years and younger |
| 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion | Nursery closed |

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion | Nursery closed |
|---------------------------|----------------|

Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday morning, December 24, the Bullock family, Katy and Brynlee (5th grade), will lead the lighting of the fourth candle on our Nave Advent wreath at the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service.

Lectionary: Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. service (Fourth Sunday of Advent):
 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 or Canticle 3 or Canticle 15
 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve services:
 Psalm 96 or Psalm 98
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Titus 3:4-7
 Luke 2:1-20

Lenten Lunches

Help Needed to Make Our Series Happen

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, but Lenten Lunches teams are assembling now – contact Miriam Morris (JcMMbM@gmail.com) or LaVonda Keel (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.



making music

Music for Christmas Services

Offerings to Include The Music of Christmas on Christmas Eve

The Cathedral Choir and organ joined by the Ambassador Brass Quintet and timpani will lead music at the 5:00 p.m. (Nave), 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. Our Advent Band will lead music at the 5:00 p.m. service in the Refectory on Christmas Eve.

The Cathedral Choir will offer The Music of Christmas on Christmas Eve at 10:25 p.m. This is a special musical prelude to the 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion service.

On Christmas Day, the Cathedral Choir and organ will lead music at the 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Communion.

Holiday Closings

The Church Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, in observance of Christmas. The office will reopen on Wednesday, December 27.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.



serving & outreach

Local Outreach



Above: The Advent was privileged to share a lovely Christmas luncheon with our downtown neighbors from the Veranda in Park Place on December 11. We enjoyed delicious food, heard a simple Christmas reflection, and joyfully sang carols marking the season led by our own Fred Teardo and some members of the Cathedral Choir.

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



spiritual growth & fellowship

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, or by contacting Janet Dozier (Janet@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3503).

Christ in the Christmas Crunch



More than 100 Advent women and their guests enjoyed beautiful music, lively conversation, a delicious lunch, and a seasonal message from Leslie Housman at *Christ in the Christmas Crunch* on December 7. We also shopped for unique, handmade items to benefit and empower vulnerable communities throughout our city and around the world. Plan to join us next year for *Christ in the Christmas Crunch*!



bookstore

Bookstore Taking Year-End Break

The Advent Bookstore will close for the holidays at the end of the business day (2:00 p.m.) on Thursday, December 21. It will remain closed through Monday, January 1, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, at 10:00 a.m.

Contact the store for more information (205-323-2959, Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com).



education

Class for Parents

“Closer to God” Class to Begin in January

Starting in January, Cameron Cole will lead a class for parents on Mondays, 11:00 a.m. at Cranmer House, called *Closer to God*. This class breaks down the Christian life into four sectors: relationship with God, others, self, and creation. The class helps people to have broad structure in how they think about their spiritual life but also provides framework and direction on how to have meaningful conversations within a family. This is a great class to bring a friend to. The class will start on Monday, January 8, at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You can sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Family. Contact Cameron for more information (Cameron@CathedralAdvent.com).

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 9:6

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” - Luke 2:8-14

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.

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

transitions:

Baptism: Henry Neal James, son of Joe and Peyton, on December 10

Marriage: Anna Claire Woodall and Simeon Penton, on December 9

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Sharon Owens Turner: (Endowment Fund) by Warren and Laura Baker

Gail Sharp: (Endowment Fund) by Kathy Jackson; John Fitzgibbon

Virginia "Din" Goodall Johnson: (Endowment Fund) by Scott and Cameron Vowell

Frank E. Lankford, Jr.: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Fran and Bill Goodrich

In Thanksgiving for the Birth of Peter Thomas Teardo: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Deenie Culver



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Christmas services are listed on the front page.	25 Christmas Day Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Church Office closed	26 Church Office closed	27	28	29	30
Dec 31 Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m.	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church Office closed	2	3	4	5	6

Monday-Friday (No meeting December 25 and 26 or January 1): 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) to make an appointment or for more information.