

Adventurer

Lent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 48, No. 12

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Week of March 24, 2024



News & Events

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 25-Wednesday, March 27

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Preaching Service

Josh Chatraw preaches Monday

Gordon Bals preaches Tuesday

Doug Sweeney preaches Wednesday

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Lunches

Maundy Thursday, March 28

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Preaching Service

James Spann preaches

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Lunches

6:00 p.m.: Holy Communion and Stripping of the Chancel

Canon Pinter preaches • Cathedral Choir sings • Nursery for ages 5 and under • Service livestreamed

Good Friday, March 29

12:00 noon: The Liturgy for Good Friday

Dean Smalley preaches • Cathedral Choir sings • Nursery for ages 5 and under • Service livestreamed

See page 2 for more information.

Update on the Five O'Clock Service

This Sunday, March 24, will be the last Five O'Clock service for the foreseeable future. This decision was made after an extended period of reflection and prayer. See page 2 for more.



A Word from Canon Gardner

On a gorgeous, sunny afternoon this Lent, I was afforded about 20 minutes to sit in the Rector's Garden here at the church. I rarely take time like this just to sit. A dear friend here at the church encouraged me to enjoy God's creation. I did. The weather was perfect: not cold and not hot, just right. Goldilocks would have loved it. The breeze was gentle, and the newly budding plants danced a bit for me as the sunlight crept through the branches of the trees. I'm grateful for moments like these.

But inevitably what captured my attention in the garden were the names etched in stone of many loved ones who have gone before us to meet the Lord. Many of these names I have known over the years, and many I have not. What struck me though was the beauty of the garden, with spring and fresh life just around the corner, juxtaposed with the names of our faithful

departed. There are signs of life and signs of death in the same space.

And this is true of all of our life and existence. We are surrounded by life and death all at the same time. Simone de Beauvoir stated that "From the hour you are born you begin to die" – a sobering thought indeed. And if this life is all there is, then this is a pitiful and sad existence. All would be vain. If the Resurrection of Christ is not true, then "we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:19-20). This Holy Week we remember and celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. This gives us confidence and assurance that this life is not in vain. This life is precious in the sight of the Lord, and death has not the final word. Forgiveness, life, love, and everlasting peace are the budding fruits of Christ's labor. May they blossom in our midst.

- Jay

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- 1 Corinthians 15:19-20

This Sunday:

March 24, 2024

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Assembly Hall. Preacher: Dean Smalley

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

We will livestream the 9:00 Nave service and rebroadcast it at 11:00 a.m.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

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

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – Palm Sunday: *Good News for Checkmated Hearts* – Paul Zahl

Augustine, the Bible, and the 21st Century (Living Room) – Jason Wallace

What's in a Name?: Going with Christ from the Garden to the Gardener (Assembly Hall) – Gil Kracke

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. Children in 4th grade-6th grade have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Youth classes will not meet this Sunday; students are encouraged to attend an adult education offering. 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

Lenten Preaching Series

This week, the Lenten Preaching service will be held Monday-Thursday, March 25-28, from 12:05-12:30 p.m. Join us in-person as much as you are able, but when you can't we hope you will join us for the livestream (AdventBirmingham.org/Live) or listen later on our audio pages (Audio.AdventBirmingham.org). Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Lent to see the full preacher schedule.

Lenten Preachers this Week

Josh Chatraw to Preach Monday

Josh Chatraw was appointed the Billy Graham Chair for Evangelism and Cultural Engagement at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama, in 2023. His research, writing, and speaking focuses on public theology, apologetics, evangelism, and culture. Before his call to Beeson, he served in several positions in Raleigh, North Carolina, including Theologian-in-Residence at Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Dr. Chatraw has also taught at Liberty University and served as a pastor at Baptist churches in Virginia and Georgia.



An award-winning writer, he has written or contributed to eight books, including *Telling a Better Story* and *Cultural Engagement*, and is an inaugural fellow at The Timothy Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics. He and his wife Tracy have two children.

Gordon Bals Is Our Noonday Preacher Tuesday

Gordon Bals is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. He teaches courses in pastoral care and counseling, marriage and family counseling, and sexuality and pastoral care. A board-certified pastoral counselor, he started Daymark Pastoral Counseling in 1997. He previously worked as an adolescent and family counselor and Assistant Pastor at Shades Valley Community Church in Birmingham.



In addition to his counseling, Dr. Bals leads training workshops for pastors and congregational leaders. He has written two books, including *Grace From Head to Heart: Experiencing God's Kindness in a Fallen World*. He is married to Dawn, and they have three daughters.

Lectionary: Sunday, March 24

The Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

The Liturgy of the Word

Psalm 31:9-16 • Isaiah 50:4-9a • Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Update on the Five O'Clock Service

This Sunday, March 24, will be the last Five O'Clock service for the foreseeable future. This decision was made after an extended period of reflection and prayer, with the intention that we will be better able to concentrate our energy and resources on Sunday mornings – for worship, education, and fellowship. It is our fervent hope that our community will continue to be enriched and deepened on Sundays, as we gather in the mornings.

Doug Sweeney in the Pulpit Wednesday

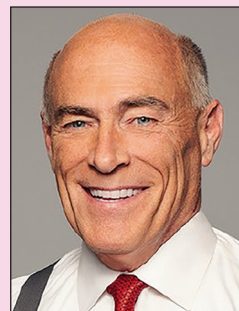
Doug Sweeney became the second Dean of Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama, in 2019. In this role he shepherds the institution by providing strategic leadership and facilitating its work to prepare men and women for gospel ministry. Before coming to Beeson, he taught at schools including Yale Divinity School, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and the University of Heidelberg. An evangelical Lutheran, he is affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.



Dr. Sweeney is the author or editor of more than 20 books on the history of Christian doctrine, American church history, and other topics. His latest book is *The Substance of Our Faith: Foundations for the History of Christian Doctrine*, the first of two volumes on the global history of doctrine. He and his wife Wilma have one adult son.

James Spann to Preach Thursday

James Spann has been Chief Meteorologist for ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, Alabama, for 25 years. In all, he has been a television weather anchor for 44 years, having also worked in Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, and Dallas, Texas. He has received the two highest awards in the nation for a broadcast meteorologist. One is *Broadcaster of the Year* by the National Weather Association. He also was awarded the American Meteorological Society's *Award for Broadcast Meteorology*. He has won multiple Emmy awards over the years.



Mr. Spann has served in children's ministry for years, and every Sunday he leads Children's Worship at Double Oak Community Church in Mount Laurel. He is married to Karen, and they have two sons.

Easter Worship at the Advent

Easter Day is Sunday, March 31. The Advent will hold Holy Communion services at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave with choir, organ, brass, and timpani, and at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Hall with our band. Come to worship and celebrate the risen Lord!

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
- Psalm 25:7

Advent School Lot Open this Week

The Advent Episcopal School will be on Spring Break March 25-29, and its parking lot on the corner of Fifth Avenue North and Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard will be available for those attending Lenten Preaching and Lunches as well as the Liturgy for Good Friday on March 29 at noon. The parking lot gate will open at 11:00 a.m.

Office Closing

The Church Office will be closed Friday, March 29, in observance of Good Friday. The office will reopen on Monday, April 1.

Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting April 1

Adventers are invited to a Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting on Monday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Typically held the first Monday of the month, this hour-long meeting is set aside to pray for the Advent. For details, contact Carol Ann Collier (CarolC1118@gmail.com, 205-478-8081).



servicing & outreach

Advent Inreach

Volunteers Needed to Deliver Lilies on Easter

We need volunteers to deliver Easter lilies to our parishioners who may not be able to attend services. The lilies and easy-to-follow directions can be picked up following the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter (March 31) and then delivered any time that day. You do not have to make your delivery immediately following the service. This is a wonderful way to meet other parishioners and to share the good news of Easter! To volunteer or for more information, contact Stella Schreiber (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8558).



spiritual growth & fellowship

Youth Ministry

Happy Spring Break!

We will not hold Youth Sunday School classes this Sunday, March 24. Students are encouraged to attend an adult education offering this Sunday. There will be no weekly morning small groups this week. Meetings will resume April 9 and 10. For more information, contact Mary Ann McCarty (MaryAnn@CathedralAdvent.com) or Will Fagan (Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com).

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.

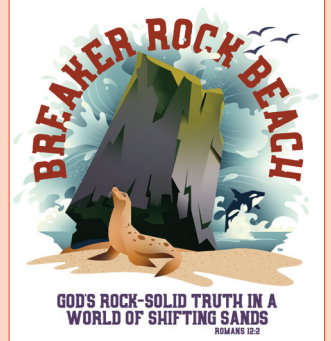


education

Vacation Bible School

Registration Is Open for VBS 2024

Children currently in 3K-5th grade are invited to *Breaker Rock Beach* Vacation Bible School, set for Monday-Thursday, June 3-6, 9:00 a.m.-noon at the Advent. At *Breaker Rock Beach*, children will learn:



1. Truth comes from God!
2. God's plan is best!
3. Everyone needs Jesus!
4. Jesus is the only way!

Cost is \$16 per participant, and scholarships are available. Register at AdventBirmingham.org/VBS. Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

We hope you will consider volunteering for this wonderful ministry opportunity. If you are interested, please contact Tara Davis or Gunter Owens (Gunter@CathedralAdvent.com). Nursery VBS is available for volunteers' children/grandchildren over age 2. Contact Tara Davis to register.



Advent Video in Production: The Advent is partnering with Birmingham video production company 99 Natives to create a film about who we are at the Advent. Pictured above and below are stills from the filming. Be on the lookout for the video in early summer.



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 Jay Gardner, Canon Pastor

The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean

The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean Pinter, Canon Theologian

The Rev. Canon Adam Young, Canon Missioner

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

William Mayfield Slaughter: (Endowment Fund) by Henry S. Lynn, Jr. • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Elna Brendel

Louise Akard Bowdoin: (Endowment Fund) by Lee and Fontaine Pope

Elizabeth Davis Eshelman: (Endowment Fund) by Scott and Cameron Vowell

Todd Barr: (Endowment Fund) by Elizabeth and James Lanier

Paul Loring Ash: (Endowment Fund) by John and Heather Rose; Dr. and Mrs. William Bugg; Elizabeth and Tom Broughton • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Samuel E. Urmev; Lyn Lanier and Bobbi Lecznar; Bill McCall; Millie and Billy Hulsey; Jane Gibbs

Gail Sharp: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Clay and Miriam Morris

David Brewer: (Music Discretionary Fund) by George and Lisa Gundersen

Mary Tibbets: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Clay and Miriam Morris



Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150
for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017
6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes
to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT,
2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

calendar:

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|----------|
| Mar 24 Palm Sunday Holy Communion at all services | 25 Lenten Preaching - Josh Chatraw - 12:05 p.m. | 26 Lenten Preaching - Gordon Bals - 12:05 p.m. | 27 Lenten Preaching - Doug Sweeney - 12:05 p.m. | 28 Maundy Thursday Lenten Preaching - James Spann - 12:05 p.m. Holy Communion and Stripping of the Chancel - 6:00 p.m. | 29 Good Friday Church Office closed The Liturgy for Good Friday - noon | 30 |
| Mar 31 Easter Day Holy Communion at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Nave), 9:00 a.m. (Assembly Hall), and 11:00 a.m. | Apr 1 Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Every Sunday: Breakfast – Refectory, 8:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday (No meeting March 29): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

Monday-Thursday, March 25-28: Lenten Lunches –
Refectory and Clingman Commons, 12:05 p.m.

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.