

2025 Lenten Preacher Biographies • Cathedral Church of the Advent

Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Glenda Curry

Glenda Curry was invested as the 12th **Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama** in January 2021. She had been consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor in 2020. Prior to her election as bishop, she served as Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood, Alabama. Ordained in 2002, she was Rector of Epiphany Episcopal Church in Leeds, Alabama, until her move to All Saints in 2004. Bishop Curry currently serves as Bishop liaison to Episcopal Church Cursillo Ministries. Before her ordination, she served as President of Troy University in Montgomery from 1992-1999, becoming Alabama's first female president of a four-year public university. She and her husband William have two children and seven grandchildren.

Thursday-Friday, March 6-7 – Amanda McMillen

Amanda McMillen serves as **Associate Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville, Virginia**. She graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Arts Administration, eventually landing at Christ Church as a fellow, and later as the youth and young adult minister. Ms. McMillen graduated from Duke Divinity School in 2023 and was ordained to the priesthood later that year. In the past she was a beeswax-candle maker and a movie-theater projectionist. In her free time, she watches really bad reality TV and reads really good novels. She is married to Brian, and they have one son.

Monday, March 10 – Arthur Price

Arthur Price is **Pastor of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama**. His vision for the historic church is to have a Bible-centric ministry that will reach, reclaim, rebuild, and reproduce disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit. Prior to his call to Sixteenth Street, he served congregations in New Jersey and New York, including leading Memorial Baptist Church in Buffalo, which experienced tremendous growth during his pastorate. Before his call to ordained ministry, Mr. Price worked for 10 years as a Prosecution Assistant in the District Attorney's office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He and his wife Candice have two daughters.

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 11-12 – Jacob Smith

Jacob Smith has served as **Rector of The Parish of Calvary-St. George's in New York, New York**, since 2017. Born in the Navajo Reservation, he was raised in Yuma, Arizona. He graduated from the University of Arizona and earned an M.Div. degree from Trinity School for Ministry. Before his call to the priesthood, he served in youth ministry. An old friend of the Advent, Mr. Smith was a founding board member of Mockingbird Ministries. He is the co-host of *Same Old Song*, Mockingbird's lectionary podcast. He is married to Melina, and they have two children.

Thursday-Friday, March 13-14 – David Zahl

David Zahl is the founder and **Director of Mockingbird Ministries in Charlottesville, Virginia**. Founded in 2007, Mockingbird seeks to connect the Christian faith with the realities of everyday life in fresh and down-to-earth ways. He is editor-in-chief of the Mockingbird blog and co-host of the *Mockingcast* and *Brothers Zahl* podcasts. A licensed lay preacher in the Diocese of Virginia, Mr. Zahl also serves on staff at Christ Episcopal Church. He is the author of several books, the latest of which, *The Big Relief: The Urgency of Grace for a Worn-Out World*, will be published in April of 2025. He and his wife Cate have three sons.

Monday-Wednesday, March 17-19 – Steve Brown

Steve Brown is the **Founder of Key Life Ministries**. Key Life exists to communicate that the deepest message of the ministry of Jesus and the Bible is the radical grace of God to sinners and sufferers. Dr. Brown teaches on the daily radio program *Key Life* and is host of the talk show, *Steve Brown, Etc.* Both can be found at KeyLife.org. Dr. Brown served as pastor of churches in Massachusetts and Florida, and taught at Knox Theological Seminary and Westminster Theological Seminary. He has written 13 books. He is married to Anna, and they have two daughters and three granddaughters.

Thursday-Friday, March 20-21 – Daniel Emery Price

Daniel Emery Price is a **podcast co-host, speaker, and author** with 1517. He also serves as 1517's Operations Executive Director, bringing oversight and direction to the many areas of content production at 1517, including articles, podcasts, video captures, and conferences. He has served as a church planter, pastor, and worship leader. Mr. Price is co-host of 1517's popular podcasts *40 Minutes in the Old Testament* and *30 Minutes in the New Testament*. Along with Erick Sorensen, he is the co-author of *Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on Parables*. He and his wife Jessie have two daughters.

Monday, March 24 – Cort Gatliff

Cort Gatliff has been **Senior Pastor** of **South Highland Presbyterian Church** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, since 2024. He previously served as Associate Pastor of Discipleship at South Highland. The son of pastors, he graduated from the University of Tennessee, and later worked as a copywriter for a marketing agency. A former member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, Mr. Gatliff is a graduate of Beeson Divinity School. He has written articles for several websites and blogs, including those of Mockingbird and The Gospel Coalition. His wife Abby serves as Associate Minister for Student and Family Discipleship at South Highland. They have three daughters.

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 25-26 – Robby Holt

Robby Holt is **Senior Pastor** of **Covenant Presbyterian Church** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, where he has served since 2020. He was Senior Pastor of North Shore Fellowship Presbyterian in Chattanooga, Tennessee, from 2014 until his call to Covenant. Mr. Holt also served as Theological Dean for the Chattanooga Institute for Faith, Work and Culture, and as an adjunct teacher in New Testament at Covenant College. He has co-authored three books, including *Practicing the King's Economy: Honoring Jesus in How We Work, Earn, Spend, Save, and Give*. He is married to Chrissy, and they have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

Thursday-Friday, March 27-28 – Russ Levenson

Russ Levenson is the former **Rector** of **St. Martin's Episcopal Church** in **Houston, Texas**, the largest Episcopal Church in the United States where he served for 17 years until his recent retirement. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, he graduated from Birmingham-Southern College. Following his ordination in 1992, he served four years as Associate Rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mountain Brook, Alabama. Dr. Levenson preached at the funeral for First Lady Barbara Bush and at the State Funeral for President George H.W. Bush. He has written several books, including the forthcoming *In God's Grip: What Golf Can Teach Us About the Gospel*. He and his wife Laura have three children.

Monday-Wednesday, March 31-April 2 – Ken Jones

Ken Sundet Jones is **Professor Emeritus** at **Grand View University** in **Des Moines, Iowa**, where he most recently served as the Gerhard O. Forde Professor of Church History and Theology. Grand View awarded him its inaugural *Excellence & Innovation in Teaching* award. He currently directs the Iowa Preachers project in partnership with Mockingbird Ministries. A pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Jones has served parishes in South Dakota and Iowa. He is an author, translator, and regular contributor to Mockingbird and 1517. He is also an official recipe tester for America's Test Kitchens. He is married to Mary.

Thursday, April 3 – Fran Sciacca

Fran Sciacca is the former **Director** of **Hands of Hur** ministry in **Birmingham, Alabama**. From 2004 to 2021 he directed Hands of Hur, a teaching ministry committed to cultural relevance, biblical integrity, and the restoration of shalom. A Bible teacher for more than 40 years, he has spoken across the United States as well as in Latin America, England, and Asia. Mr. Sciacca has written more than 30 Bible studies and books, including his most recent, *Have We Lost the Plot? Returning to the One Story of the One God*. For three years he hosted the podcast *The Road to Shalom*, available at FranSciacca.com. He and his wife Jill have four children and 11 grandchildren.

Friday, April 4 – Anna Harris Fitzgibbon

Anna Harris Fitzgibbon is **Senior Director of Content** at **Rooted Ministry** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. She also co-hosts the *Rooted Parent* podcast. Ms. Fitzgibbon is the author of *God's Grace for Every Family: Biblical Encouragement for Single Parent Families and the Churches That Seek to Love Them Well*, which won the *Christianity Today* 2024 Book Award in the Marriage, Family and Singleness category. After losing her husband in 2010, she raised three sons to adulthood and recently married Tom Fitzgibbon. She enjoys gardening, great books, hiking, and ice cream.

Monday-Tuesday, April 7-8 – Cal Macfarlane

Cal Macfarlane is **Priest-in-Charge** at **St. Aiden Anglican Church** in **Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada**, providing stability to the church in its time of transition between incumbents. He also serves as Associate Professor of Spiritual Theology at Briercrest College and Seminary. A gifted preacher and teacher, Dr. Macfarlane speaks in a variety of settings on subjects ranging from 17th-century Anglican spirituality and poetics to contemporary issues in Christian spirituality and theology. Beyond his vocations as priest and professor, he enjoys being a poet and a studio potter.

Wednesday-Thursday, April 9-10 – Cokiesha Bailey Robinson

Cokiesha Bailey Robinson is **Associate Dean of Mentoring & Cross Cultural Engagement** at **Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana**. She is also the founder of Cross Spring Ministries, and has traveled widely as a gospel minister, Bible teacher, and conference speaker. She earned her M.Div. degree at Beeson Divinity School, which presented her its 2020 Master of Divinity Distinguished Alumni Award. Ms. Robinson formerly worked on the pastoral staffs of churches in Dallas and New York City, and was a missionary in Jamaica, Zimbabwe, and Turkey. She has co-authored two books and contributed to eight, and is a contributing writer to *Our Daily Bread*. She is married to her Beeson seminary sweetheart, the Rev. Timothy Robinson.

Friday, April 11 – Tal Prince

Tal Prince is the **Director of Insights Counseling Center** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. After careers in international business, broadcasting, and ministry, he now uses his life experience, education, and personal experience with addiction to help individuals and couples at Insights Counseling. Mr. Prince holds a Master of Divinity degree from Beeson Divinity School and a Master of Clinical Mental Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He previously served as Pastor of Tapestry of Hope church in Birmingham, and hosted his own show on Sirius Satellite Radio. He and his wife Teresa have two adult daughters.

Monday-Wednesday, April 14-16 – Dan Stulac

Dan Stulac is **Assistant Professor of the Old Testament** at **Briercrest College and Seminary in Caronport, Saskatchewan, Canada**. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he worked as a campus minister and organic farmer in New Hampshire, and then as an agricultural missionary in Rwanda. He attended Princeton Theological Seminary and completed his doctoral studies in Old Testament at Duke University in 2017. In addition to numerous essays and articles, Dr. Stulac has published several books including the forthcoming *Worship and Waste: A Christological Companion to the Book of 2 Samuel*. He is married to Danielle, and they have two daughters.

Thursday, April 17 – Jonathan Linebaugh

Jonathan Linebaugh is **Anglican Chair of Divinity** at **Beeson Divinity School** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, where he also serves as Director of the Institute of Anglican Studies. Before coming to Beeson, he was Professor of New Testament at the University of Cambridge and a fellow of Jesus College. He also taught at Knox Theological Seminary. Ordained in 2008, Dr. Linebaugh has had an extensive preaching and education ministry in churches throughout the Anglican Communion. An old friend of the Advent, he has written several books, including *The Word of the Cross: Reading Paul* and *God's Two Words: Law and Gospel in the Lutheran and Reformed Traditions*. He and his wife Megan have three children.

Good Friday, April 18 (*Service begins at noon.*) – **Craig Smalley**

Craig Smalley is **Dean and Rector** of the **Cathedral Church of the Advent** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. A graduate of The Citadel, he earned his M.Div. at Virginia Theological Seminary. After being ordained in 1995, he served churches in South Carolina and Texas before being called in 2001 to be Rector of the Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. In 2006 Dean Smalley joined the clergy staff at the Advent, where he has also served as Canon for Christian Education, Canon Missioner, Canon Pastor, and Chaplain to the Advent Episcopal School. He is married to Paula, and they have three children and one grandchild.