Life can be pretty tough sometimes! The brokenness of this world, and of ourselves, can often be overwhelming. It can be difficult to trust that God is for us, when so much of the world and our life seems to be against us. When there are wars and rumors of wars. When there are catastrophic bushfires threatening homes in California and Australia. When friends and family are suffering, and it feels like life is spiraling out of control and that evil is winning. It can be difficult to persevere in faith and know that God is in control and that he is working towards the reconciliation of all things in Christ (Colossians 1:20). It can be tough to trust God and his promises.

One can only imagine that this was especially true for Abraham and his wife Sarah. When Abraham and Sarah were about 100 years old, God promised them that they would give birth to a son. This must have seemed impossible for them! Even with all the advancements in health care and reproductive procedures, it would seem impossible today! But the Bible tells us that Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

Paul notes that even though Abraham’s body was as good as dead, and Sarah’s womb was barren, they continued to believe God was able to do what he had promised. Even when everything seemed to be working against them, they believed that God was powerful enough to bring life out of their death-ridden bodies.

The good news for us is God has given us a sure and certain sign that he is faithful to his promises in Jesus’ death and resurrection. For all the promises of God find their “Yes” in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). In Jesus, we can be fully convinced that God is able to do what he has promised. So, when life is overwhelming and it feels like the world is against you, you can know that “he who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

- Michael

This Sunday:
November 24, 2019

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Michael Weeks

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Michael Weeks

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
In the Nave. Preacher: Michael Weeks

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Smalley

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Canon Hicks

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.
The Dean’s Class (Nave) – Who Goes to Heaven? – Canon Schneider
That You May Believe (Living Room) – Jesus Is the Christ (John 20) – Gil Kracke
The Promises of the Gospel and Risk: Reflections from a Nigerian Bishop (Chapter Room) – Bishop Jwan Zhumbes
More Than Just Dinner: Thanksgiving, Joy, and Praise (Assembly Hall) – Elizabeth Scribner
Faith and Family (Lower School Library) – How Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Informed Our Parenting – Jane and Don Menendez

Children’s & Youth Education:
Classes are offered for 3-years and older. See Sunday’s service bulletin for details. The Nursery is open 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
At the Five O’Clock service, childcare is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:
Psalm 46
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Colossians 1:11-20

Sermon and class recordings are available at AdventBirmingham.org.
The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on WERC 960 AM, 105.5 FM, and AdventBirmingham.org.

AdventBirmingham.org • 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 • 205-251-2324
Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting
December 2
All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering on Monday, December 2, 7:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Typically held the first Monday of every month, this hour-long meeting is set aside to pray for the Advent. As Dean Pearson wrote about these gatherings, “If we are not on our knees, we are trying to do ministry in our own strength. We know that apart from the Lord Jesus we can do nothing.”
We hope you can join us.

Thanksgiving Closings
The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Advent Bookstore will be closed Wednesday-Friday, November 27-29. The office will reopen on Monday, December 2. The store will reopen on Sunday, December 1.

Young Adults’ Ministry
Next Community Meal Is December 4
If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join the Advent Young Adult Community on Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Pearson’s home (3025 Woodleigh Road, 35223) for a festive time of food and fellowship. Lauren Pearson will offer a reflection on The Gospel and Money. For more information, contact Michael Weeks (Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com).

Ageless Adventers
Fellowship in the Pines December 2
All Adventers are invited to join our friends at St. Martin’s for lunch and a word from Canon Smalley on Monday, December 2, at noon. Lunch is served in the private dining room of The Arbors at St. Martin’s (4941 Montevallo Road, 35223) for $12.75. For more information, contact Stella Schreiber (205-443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

education
A Day with Mark Gignilliat
At Beeson: Advent and the Psalms of Ascent
Join Mark Gignilliat on Monday, December 2, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Beeson Divinity School for Advent and the Psalms of Ascent, an insightful look at the Psalms within the whole of Scripture as preparation for experiencing the word of God during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Mark is Professor of Divinity at Beeson and serves as Lay Canon Theologian at the Advent. Cost is $25, with lunch and refreshments provided. To register, visit BeesonDivinity.com/Preaching-Institute and click on “Upcoming Events.”

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For by grace you have been saved by faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  
- Ephesians 2:8-9

**worship**

**Lessons and Carols**

**Advent Services to Be Held December 8**

Two services of Advent Lessons and Carols will highlight the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave. Following in the tradition of Kings College, Cambridge, these services incorporate readings from the Bible and seasonal Advent carols and hymns that guide hearts to joyful expectation of the coming of Jesus Christ. The Cathedral Choir will lead musical worship, and Dean Pearson will preach.

**making music**

**The Cathedral Choir**

**National Radio Show to Feature Choir December 1**

With Heart and Voice, a Public Radio program broadcast across the country, will open its show on Sunday, December 1, with two tracks by our own Cathedral Choir. Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth and E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come will be featured on the show, which airs in Birmingham at 6:00 a.m. on WBHM 90.3 FM.

With Heart and Voice is a weekly program of sacred choral and organ music that features recordings from around the world. Find out more and listen to shows at WithHeartAndVoice.org.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”  
- Jeremiah 23:5-6

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.  
- Psalm 46:1-2

**serving & outreach**

**Thursday Morning Congregation**

**December Brings Service Opportunities**

During December we offer warm weather items and special food gifts to those who attend the Thursday Morning service. Join us in showing hospitality this season by donating one or more of the items below with your small group, family, or Bible study group! Also, consider coming out for our worship service on any of these days, especially December 19, when we’ll host a wonderful Christmas Social. Families and little ones are welcome!

- December 5 – Four dozen oranges or Cuties
- December 12 – Eight dozen cookies (wrapped in bags of two cookies each)
- December 18 – Join us at 9:30 a.m. in Clingman Commons to sign and stuff Christmas cards, bag our gift of holiday food, and help set up for our Thursday Christmas Social (RSVP to Anita Gray – Anita@CathedralAdvent.com).
- December 19 – Christmas Social: provide supplies and serve food, take photos, or show up and celebrate the season with us!
- January 2 – Four dozen bananas

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Outreach-SignUp to donate one of the items, or email Anita Gray (Anita@CathedralAdvent.com). Items need to be dropped off to Anita at the church office the Wednesday prior to the date scheduled or day of for the Christmas Social.

**Ministry Partners**

**Be a Ministry Partner Intercessor!**

The Advent is fortunate to be in partnership with many gospel-centered ministries. Part of healthy partnerships is the call to mutual prayer. We see this throughout Scripture, and especially in Paul’s letters.

For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death (Philippians 1:19-20).

Prayer is not the least we can do, but is both the foundation and fuel for the ministry God does through his people.

In response to God’s call to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, please consider signing up to be a Ministry Partner Intercessor. Whether homebound, a working professional, a school-aged child, or someone who travels a lot – you can always support those in ministry through prayer! Intercessors will be paired with one of our partners to offer encouragement and prayer support to those serving the Lord in vocational ministry. For more information, contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com).


**transitions:**

**Birth:** Oliver Parker Kraft, son of William and Katie, on November 4

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**calendar:**

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Thanksgiving Day Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Church Office and Bookstore closed</td>
<td>29 Church Office and Bookstore closed</td>
<td>30</td>
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Dec 1

Regular worship schedule
Advent Wreath-Making - Cranmer House - 12:30 p.m.
Youth Advent Bowl - Mtn. Brook High School - 2:00 p.m.

2 Fellowship in the Pines - St. Martin’s - noon Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting - Cranmer House - 7:15 p.m.

3

4 Young Adults’ Community Meal - 3025 Woodleigh Road - 6:30 p.m.

5 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.

6 Christ in the Christmas Crunch - The Club - 9:30 a.m.

7

We have more Bible studies, book studies, and groups of all kinds meeting than we can list on the calendar! Please join us in praising God for this blessing and visit AdventBirmingham.org/BibleStudies for a complete list of options available to you. If you have any questions, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).