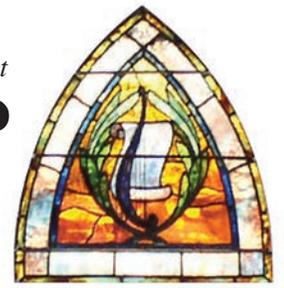


Adventurer

Advent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 42, No. 44

Third Sunday of Advent

Week of December 16, 2018



News & Events

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Thursday Evening, December 20

The Cathedral Choir will offer A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 20, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This service is modeled after the one 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 season. Deborah Leighton will preach. Whether you are on your way home from working downtown or simply looking for an opportunity to hear the gospel and some seasonal music, all are warmly invited to attend this weeknight service.

The Forum: On Anxiety and Depression at Christmas

Join us this Sunday, December 16, 6:15 p.m. in Clingman Commons, as we discuss anxiety and depression during the Christmas season with counselor Kent Michael. See page 2 for more information.

Christmas Worship at the Advent

Christmas is quickly approaching, and we're thrilled to offer a variety of worship service options. See page 2 for more information, and visit AdventBirmingham.org/Christmas for complete details.



A Word from Canon Hicks

In the last few years, every time Advent has rolled around, I pull out one of my favorite musical meditations – a bombastic, edgy rock tune called “This is War,” by The Modern Post. Now, a song like this, both musically and lyrically, doesn't sound like the Christmas season typically does: no lilting strings and shimmering sleigh bells; no endearing vibrato from a well-heeled male crooner; no sentimental reflections about sweet little babies, much less a red-suited midnight cookie-eater. Instead, we hear,

This is war, like you ain't seen

This winter's long, it's cold and mean

With downcast hearts, we stood condemned

The tide turns now at Bethlehem.

The song will go on to remind us that the incarnation of the Son of God was, in a sense, God's formal declaration of war on the world, the flesh, and the devil – signed, sealed, and delivered.

Maybe The Modern Post isn't your cup of tea. If so, I might recommend a completely different musical meditation with the identical message: Benjamin Britten's choral setting of a poem by 16th-century poet, Robert Southwell. With agitated, rhythmic echo, the opening lines sing,

*This little babe, so few days old, is come
to rifle Satan's fold*

*All hell doth at his presence quake,
though he himself for cold doth shake
For in this weak unarmed wise, the gates
of hell he will surprise.*

Good news, people! A mighty warrior has come to deal with every injustice and to vanquish every evil – including the evil in us. The great shocker is that this warrior comes in the form of a weak baby, which is a big clue as to the kind of King he will be and the kind of power he wields (Jesus' style of entry is very much the theology of the cross, is it not?). But for that, we'll need to wait for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. In the meantime, revel this season in the glorious truth that we have a God who fights our battles for us, and who wins. Thanks be to God.

- Zac

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

- Matthew 10:34

This Sunday: December 16, 2018

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Pearson

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Dean Pearson

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Pearson

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Hicks

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Deborah Leighton

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean's Class (Nave) – 2 *Corinthians: Paul's Advent Letter* – Mark Gignilliat

Three Revelations, and Three Ways to Die: Socrates, Jesus, and Muhammad (Chapter Room) – Jason Wallace

Great Prayers and Hymns of Christmas (Assembly Hall) – Dennis Sansom

O Come, All Ye Faithful: Christmas Longing and Fulfillment (Living Room) – Gil Kracke

Faith and Family (Lower School Library) – *Characters Around the Manger: Mary* – Steven Nichols

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes are offered for 3-years and older. See Sunday's service leaflet for details. Nurseries are open 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. At the 5:00 service, childcare is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:

Canticle 9
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

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.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



worship

Christmas Worship

Services to Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas is quickly approaching, and we're thrilled to offer a variety of worship service options to our Birmingham community.

On Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24), our Family Service at 3:00 p.m. is in a new, more streamlined format this year. Our 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. services in the Nave will feature our renowned Cathedral Choir, and our new 5:00 p.m. service in the Refectory will feature Advent Birmingham, the group of musicians who regularly lead worship in our Sunday Refectory service as well as our Five O'Clock service. On Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25), our Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m. allows us to gather in worship on the day that marks the arrival of Jesus Christ.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Christmas for complete details and forward the link to your friends, neighbors, and family members so that they can come and hear the good news of the gospel!



Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 16, the McElrath family – John and Stacey, John (1st grade) and Anne (4K) – will light the third candle on our parish Advent wreath immediately before the 9:00 a.m. service.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Ageless Adventers

Third Wednesday to Feature Christmas Luncheon December 19

Ageless Adventers, our fellowship group for seniors, will gather for the next Third Wednesday program on December 19, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The meeting will feature our Christmas luncheon, and Deborah Leighton will continue our exploration of Philipians. RSVP to Stella Schreiber (443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

Young Adults' Ministry

Christmas Party Set for December 19

If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join us for dessert at our Christmas party on Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. at 1048 28th Street South, 35205. Contact Mike Weeks (Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.



education

The Forum

This Sunday: On Anxiety and Depression at Christmas

For many people the Christmas season is certainly one of great joy, but for many others it can be one of the most difficult times of the year emotionally. This is why at this month's Forum we will discuss the topics of anxiety and depression through a Christian lens with Kent Michael (*right*), who is a parishioner and professional counselor.



Join us in Clingman Commons this Sunday, December 16, at 6:15 p.m., immediately following the Five O'Clock service. The Forum is a monthly discussion-based Christian education program. It is also a good occasion to invite visitors to the church. Dinner is provided, and children are welcome. For more information, contact Anita Gray (Anita@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8550).

Advent House: Intercessory prayer is on-going at Advent House. To schedule a prayer session, call Kathy Logue at 410-4622.



serving & outreach

Thursday Morning Congregation

Opportunities Remain to Serve this Month

During the month of December, we offer warm weather items and special food gifts to those who attend the Thursday Morning Service. Join us in showing hospitality 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 Thursdays at 8:30 a.m., especially December 20, when we'll host a wonderful Christmas Social. Families and little ones are welcome!

- Wednesday, December 19 – Join us at 9:30 a.m. in Clingman Commons to bundle sweatshirts, sign Christmas cards, and bag our gift of holiday food to be distributed at the Christmas Social (RSVP to Anita Gray – Anita@CathedralAdvent.com).
- Thursday, December 20 – Christmas Social: provide supplies and serve at the biscuit station, dessert station, hot chocolate station, or photo station!
- Thursday, December 27 – Six dozen oranges or cuties

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Outreach-SignUp to donate one of the items, or email Anita Gray. Items need to be dropped off to Anita at the church office the Wednesday prior to the date scheduled or the day of for the Christmas Social (December 20).

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



servicing & outreach

Poinsettia Delivery

Christmas "Inreach" for Our Homebound

Please help bring a little of the Advent to our homebound parishioners by delivering poinsettias on Christmas Day. Flowers must be picked up immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on Tuesday, December 25, but you can deliver any time Christmas afternoon! Easy maps with directions are included.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Stella Schreiber (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8558).



education

Men's Bible Study

Dads with Sons: Join Us for this Study in January

Join Mell Duggan and Jim Dixon as they lead fathers through case studies of men in the Bible as a guide for understanding how God's truth and gospel inform the raising of a boy. This men's group will meet on Monday mornings at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209), 6:30-7:30 a.m., starting January 7. Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com) to sign up.



spiritual growth & fellowship



Making Advent Wreaths

On Thursday, November 29, friends and families of the Advent gathered at Cranmer House in Homewood to make Advent wreaths. The hands-on activity brought everyone together for fellowship, creativity, and fun. We pray the wreaths and candles point everyone to the light of Christ this season.

If you missed the event and would like to create your own wreath, the Advent Bookstore has candles, rings, and other supplies available for purchase. See "Bookstore" (right) or visit AdventBirmingham.org/Bookstore for current hours.



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 226-3500.

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

- Luke 3:15-18



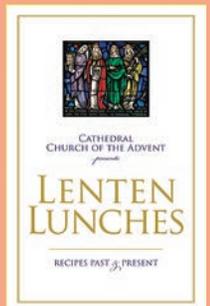
bookstore

Great Gift-Giving Ideas

Lenten Lunches by Advent ECW – great recipes and Lenten Lunches history; *Witnesses to the Light* by John Harris Harper – beautiful devotional book about the Advent's stained glass windows and other liturgical art; Advent tote – perfect for carrying your Bible or other study material (at a below-cost price!); Advent pen and ink prints by David Peacher; the Advent ornament; the Advent pewter julep cup... And many other special books, gifts, and jewelry to choose from that you'll find only here.

The store's After-Christmas Sale will begin December 30, with 50-percent off.

Advent season store hours are Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; and Thursday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact us: 323-2959, Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com. Visit us any time: AdventBirmingham.org/Bookstore.



diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Pastor and Day School Chaplain

The Rev. Canon Matthew C. Schneider, Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism

The Rev. Canon Zac Hicks, Canon for Liturgy and Worship

The Rev. Deborah R. Leighton, Director of Women's Ministries and Clergy Associate

The Rev. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

transitions:

Births: Samuel James Mann, son of Taylor and Barrett, on November 18; John Athanasius Herum, son of Nathan and Sheri, on November 21; Thompson Douglas White, son of Doug and Forsyth, on November 27

Baptism: John Whitfield Richards, son of Chris and Stewart, on December 2

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

John Worrell Poynor: (Endowment Fund) by Jane and Harold Goings; Ann and Leland Hull • (Fine Arts Fund) by Mrs. Dan Anderson and Family

John McCrory: (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thuston

Brian Keith: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by John Hornsby

Carr Kratovil: (Pastoral Care) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner

Sidney Perry Allen: (Outreach) by Millie and Billy Hulsey

William "Bill" Doric Tynes, Jr.: (Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. William M. Slaughter; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 16 Regular worship schedule The Forum - Clingman Commons - 6:15 p.m.	17	18	19 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday - Cranmer House - noon Young Adults' Christmas Party - 1048 28th St. S - 7:00 p.m.	20 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	21	22
Dec 23 Regular worship schedule Fifth Grade Pageant - Nave - 9:00 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service schedule on page 2 Church Office and Bookstore closed	25 Christmas Day Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Church Office and Bookstore closed	26 Boxing Day Church Office and Bookstore closed	27 Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.	28	29

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

Monday-Friday (No meeting December 24-26): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

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).