

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 42, No. 45

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Week of December 23, 2018



News & Events



Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Family Service

Preacher: Cameron Cole

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Pearson

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Mark Gignilliat

8:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Pearson

10:25 p.m. The Music of Christmas

11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Pearson

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Schneider



A Word from the Dean

I have spent the entirety of my adult life trying to recapture the magic of Christmas. In college, due to family circumstances, Christmas began to lose its luster. Rather than looking forward to it, I found that the day served as a reminder that all was not well in my life. So, I set about trying to rekindle Christmas magic each year.

It never worked, but I did catch glimpses of it. Living in England, Christmas had a distinctly Dickens feel to it with the weather, the music, the covered markets, among other things. It was an escape from the real world.

Now I find it in my own children. I so enjoy their excitement and joy leading up to Christmas and in the days following.

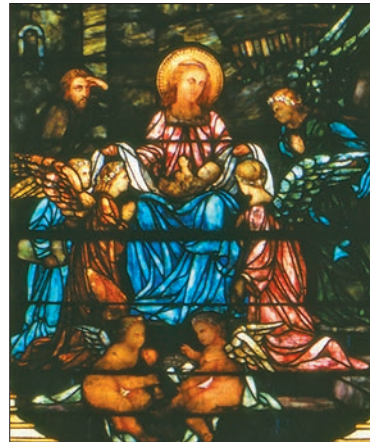
Of course, the problem is that this is all wrongheaded. You and I cannot manufacture Christmas and its specialness in a feeling, but find it in a reality: the truth that God came into the world to save sinners. He came because all is not well in our lives, and we need even to be rescued from sentimentality. The joy I was looking for was fleeting, but the joy of the Lord is enduring in spite of circumstance.

For me, I still love all of the traditions and trappings of Christmas, but the magic

comes in the unbelievable message that unto us is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord. If I look to a season for hope that everything is going to be okay, I look in vain. But if I come to Bethlehem and see this baby born in a manger, there I will see my hope and my joy.

Merry Christmas.

- Andrew



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

This Sunday: December 23, 2018

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Smalley

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Canon Smalley

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Smalley

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Mark Gignilliat

5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Preacher: Canon Schneider

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

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

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

Special Five O'Clock Service

Join us this Sunday for an evening of lessons, carols, and Alabama soul during our Five O'Clock service. Local musicians will join Advent Birmingham for this special evening you won't want to miss.

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, child-care is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:

Psalm 80:1-7 or Canticle 3 or Canticle 15
Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

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

We're delighted to offer a variety of worship service options to our Birmingham community at Christmas.

On Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24), our Family Service moves to a new time at 3:00 p.m., and is in a new, more streamlined format this year.

We've added a new Christmas Eve service this year at 5:00 p.m. in the Refectory. It 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.

And as usual on Christmas Eve, our 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. services in the Nave will feature our renowned Cathedral Choir, accompanied by brass, timpani, and organ.

On Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25), our Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m. with The Cathedral Choir 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!

Christmas Child Care

Nursery Schedule for Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

- 3:00 p.m. Child care for ages 3 and under
- 5:00 p.m. Child care for ages 5 and under
- 8:00 p.m. Nursery closed
- 11:00 p.m. Nursery closed

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Nursery closed

Fifth Grade Pageant

The annual 5th Grade Christmas Pageant will be held this Sunday, December 23, during the 9:00 a.m. service.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Support Group

For Mothers of Special-Needs Children

A six-week support group for mothers of children with special needs will meet on Thursdays from January 17-February 21, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The group will provide space to reflect on how parenting children with special needs impacts our relationships, views of ourselves, and our spirituality, among other topics. For more information or to be part of this group, contact Stella Schreiber (443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 23, the Scribner family – Elizabeth and Charlie, Elizabeth (1st grade), Charlotte (4K), and Charles (2-years-old) – will light the fourth candle on our parish Advent wreath immediately before the 9:00 a.m. service.



serving & 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).

Christmas Closings

The Church Office will be closed Monday-Wednesday, December 24-26, in observance of Christmas. It will reopen Thursday, December 27. The Advent Bookstore will be closed Monday-Friday, December 24-28, reopening on Sunday, December 30.



serving & outreach

Food Drive

Save the Date: Food Drive on January 13

We will collect non-perishable food items after the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, January 13. This year's Food Drive once again will support our ministry partner, Bridge Ministries. Bridge focuses on preventing homelessness in the Birmingham area by assisting people in crisis situations to pay their rent or utility bills or to secure temporary emergency lodging.

Food needs include canned meats and fish; dried beans, peas, and rice; peanut butter; canned vegetables and fruit; cereal (low-sugar and oatmeal preferred); and powdered or canned milk. We do not need sugar, meal, or flour. *Please check expiration dates* and avoid open containers.

For more information, please contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com).

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

making music



Cathedral Choir Goes Caroling

Above: Members of The Cathedral Choir sang Christmas carols at two Birmingham senior-care facilities on Sunday, December 9. The choristers sang for residents and their families and friends at Episcopal Place, as well as the Memory Care and Assisted Living areas and The Arbors Apartments at St. Martin's-in-the-Pines.

education

Small Groups

Dads with Sons: Join Us for this Study!

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, 443-8562) to sign up.

Group for Women in Their 20s and 30s Starts in January

Sally Goings and Gretchen Williams will lead this group at Sally's home (4404 Corinth Drive, 35213). This 10-week study will meet on Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m., beginning January 9. On the last Wednesday of each month, the group will attend the Young Adult Community Dinner at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). To sign up or for more information, contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).

New Bible Study for Men in Their 20s and 30s

Mike Weeks (Advent's Assisting Clergy), Alfred Goings, and Allan Causey will lead this study on Tuesdays beginning January 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Alfred Goings' home (4404 Corinth Drive, 35213). To sign up, contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).

education



Bibles for 2nd Graders

Above: On Sunday, December 9, the Advent presented Bibles to our 2nd grade students. Following a blessing from Dean Pearson in the 9:00 service, the children received their own copies of the Adventure Bible (NIV) in the Lower School Library. In January they will begin learning how to use their Bibles.

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.

bookstore



"Pre" After-Christmas Sale

This Sunday, December 23, we will have a "Pre-Sale" on Christmas items (not including Fontanini or no-discount items).

The store will be closed the week of Christmas, reopening on Sunday, December 30, for our After-Christmas Sale. All sale items will be 50-percent off, so mark your calendar to come check out what we have. We will also be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

After Christmas, we will return to our regular hours of Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 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:

Baptism: Joseph Otto Kraft, son of William and Norma, on December 9

Marriages: Rives Oliver and Alyssa Jones, on December 8; Michael Weeks and Rachel Laster, on December 8

Death: Betty Tanner, on December 7

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

George Wavra: (Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez

Alice Ashton: (Endowment Fund) by Whitney DeBardeleben

Charlie Rogers: (Endowment Fund) by Whitney DeBardeleben

John Worrell Poynor: (Endowment Fund) by Leslie Moody; Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Naftel; Carla and Bob Reich; Joan and Stan Starnes

Marian "Teeny" Brannon: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Mali Mathru

William "Bill" Doric Tynes, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Joan and Stan Starnes; John and Jean Oliver



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 23 Regular worship schedule Fifth Grade Pageant - Nave - 9:00 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service schedule on front page 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
Dec 30 Regular worship schedule	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church Office and Bookstore closed	2	3 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.	4	5

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

Monday-Friday (No meeting December 24-26 or January 1): 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).