

2018 Lenten Preaching Service Biographies

Ash Wednesday, February 14 – Kee Sloan

John McKee “Kee” Sloan was seated as the 11th **Bishop of Alabama** in January 2012, following four years of service as Bishop Suffragan. A native of Mississippi, he served there as priest in several parishes and as Chaplain at the University of Mississippi. In 1993 he was called to be Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Huntsville, Alabama, where he served for 14 years. Bishop Sloan is the author of *Jabbok*, a theological novel using settings and characters from his life. He is married to Tina, and they have two adult children.

Thursday-Friday, February 15-16 – Walter Wood

Walter Wood is **North American Director** with **Redeemer City to City** in **Cincinnati, Ohio**. City to City is the church planting ministry launched by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, founded by Tim Keller. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Wood served for 21 years as founding and Senior Pastor of North Cincinnati Community Church in Mason, Ohio. NCCC planted eight other churches in the Cincinnati area and beyond. He and his wife Becky have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Monday-Wednesday, February 19-21 – John Guest

John Guest serves as **Minister-at-Large** at **Christ Church** in **Sewickley, Pennsylvania**. He recently returned to Christ Church, where he previously served as Senior Pastor and Rector. Born in Oxford and ordained in the Church of England, Dr. Guest was called to Pennsylvania in 1968 to work for the Pittsburgh Experiment, through which he founded the Coalition for Christian Outreach and co-founded Trinity School for Ministry. Over the past 20 years he has spoken about the Christian faith around the world, addressing nearly two million people.

Thursday- Friday, February 22-23 – Jady Koch

Jady Koch has served as **Rector of St. Francis in the Fields** in **Harrods Creek, Kentucky**, since 2014, following his call there in 2012. Before coming to St. Francis, he worked in the Church of England's Diocese in Europe, first at St. George's Anglican in Berlin and then at Christ Church Vienna in Austria. A graduate of Washington and Lee University and Trinity School for Ministry, Dr. Koch earned his Doctorate in Systematic Theology at the University of Humboldt in Berlin. He and his wife Liza have two children.

Monday-Wednesday, February 26-28 – Mark Mattes

Mark Mattes serves as **Chair of the Department of Theology** at **Grand View University** in **Des Moines, Iowa**. Before moving to Grand View, he served churches in Illinois and Wisconsin. Dr. Mattes has written several books, including *Luther's Theology of Beauty: A Reappraisal* and *The Role of Justification in Contemporary Theology*. He has also co-written or co-translated several works, and written numerous essays and reviews. He is an associate editor for *Lutheran Quarterly*.

Thursday-Friday, March 1-2 – Orrey McFarland

Orrey McFarland is **Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church** in **Thornville, Ohio**. He also serves as Visiting Professor of New Testament and Historical Theology at Knox Theological Seminary and is a member of the teaching faculty of St. Paul Lutheran Seminary. The primary focus of his research and writing is the Apostle Paul. Dr. McFarland is the author of *God and Grace in Philo and Paul*, and he has published several articles and essays. He is married to Kristi.

Monday-Tuesday, March 5-6 – Cokiesha Bailey Robinson

Cokiesha Bailey Robinson is the founder and **Director of Cross Spring Ministries** in **Dallas, Texas**. She serves as an international speaker, Bible teacher, mentor, and ministry consultant. Mrs. Robinson formerly worked on the pastoral staffs of churches in Dallas and New York City. She served as a missionary in Africa and Jamaica, and has contributed to four books, two of which she co-authored. A graduate of Beeson Divinity School, she is married to her seminary sweetheart, the Rev. Timothy Robinson.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 7-8 – Ken Jones

Ken Jones has served as **Pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Miami, Florida**, since 2010. Active in pastoral ministry since 1983, he previously co-hosted the *White Horse Inn* radio broadcast and is a frequent conference speaker. Mr. Jones is a regular contributor to *Tabletalk* magazine and has contributed to three books, including *Experiencing the Truth: Bringing the Reformation to the African-American Church* and *Glory Road*. He and his wife Lisa have one adult son.

Friday, March 9 – Jack Alvey

Jack Alvey began serving as **Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama**, in 2014. He previously served for five years as Associate Rector at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Homewood, Alabama. A native of Birmingham, Mr. Alvey was formed as a Christian at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mountain Brook, Alabama. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama and Virginia Theological Seminary. He is married to Jamie, and they have two children.

Monday-Tuesday, March 12-13 – Russell Levenson

Russell Levenson is **Rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas**. With nearly 9,500 members, St. Martin's is the largest Episcopal Church in the United States. A native of Birmingham, Dr. Levenson served four years at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mountain Brook, Alabama. He was Rector of churches in Louisiana and Florida before his call to St. Martin's in 2007. He has written four seasonal devotional books and contributed to various magazines and journals. He and his wife Laura have three children and two grandchildren.

Wednesday-Friday, March 14-16 – Jim Munroe

Jim Munroe is **Associate Minister at the Parish of Calvary-St. George's in New York City**. He attended Williams College, Wycliffe Hall (Oxford), and Virginia Theological Seminary, with brief stops along the way for hockey and the Marine Corps. Mr. Munroe served four years as Curate at Grace Church in New York City, along with Fitz Allison and Paul Zahl (who taught him how to disco). He served Episcopal Churches in western Massachusetts for 30 years, including more than 15 years as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield.

Monday-Tuesday, March 19-20 – Justin Holcomb

Justin Holcomb serves as **Canon for Vocations for the Diocese of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida**. He also teaches theology at Reformed Theological Seminary and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Dr. Holcomb serves on the boards of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in Christian Environments) and REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade). He has written or edited 14 books on numerous topics including biblical studies, historical theology, sexual assault, and domestic abuse. He and his wife Lindsey have two daughters.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 21-22 – Frank Limehouse

Frank Limehouse accepted a call to be **Chaplain of Christ Memorial Chapel in Jupiter Island, Florida**, in February 2017, serving November through April each year. He served as Dean of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama, from 2005 to 2014. After his conversion to Christianity in his early 30s, Mr. Limehouse followed a call into ordained ministry and served several parishes in South Carolina. He is married to Jane, and they have two adult children and one grandchild.

Friday, March 23 - Robert Smith

Robert Smith is **Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama**. An ordained Baptist minister, he served as Pastor of New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, for 20 years. A popular preacher and teacher, Dr. Smith has spoken at more than 100 seminaries and universities around the world. He wrote the award-winning book, *Doctrine that Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life*. He and his wife Wanda are the parents of four adult children.

Monday-Wednesday, March 26-28 – Fleming Rutledge

Fleming Rutledge is an **author, preacher, and teacher** in **New York City**. One of the first women to be ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church, she served for 14 years on the clergy staff at Grace Church in New York City. Her most recent book, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*, was named 2016 Book of the Year by *Christianity Today*. Mrs. Rutledge has also published six sermon collections and a book about the theology of *The Lord of the Rings*. She and her husband Dick have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Thursday, March 29 – Joel Brooks

Joel Brooks is **Lead Pastor** of **Redeemer Community Church** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. Mr. Brooks and his wife Lauren moved from Atlanta to Birmingham 21 years ago so that he could attend Beeson Divinity School. After graduating in 1999, he founded University Christian Fellowship (UCF). After nine years with UCF, the Brooks felt the Lord leading them to plant a church in east Birmingham. In 2008 Redeemer Community Church held its first service in their home. The Brooks have three children.

Good Friday, March 30 (Service begins at noon.) - Andrew Pearson

Andrew Pearson has served as **Dean** of the **Cathedral Church of the Advent** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, since 2014. He was the Advent's Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism from 2011 to 2013. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, Dean Pearson worked for a Christian ministry in Washington, DC, before attending seminary. He served as Associate Rector of The Parish Church of St. Helena in Beaufort, South Carolina, before his call to the Advent. He and his wife Lauren have three daughters.