A Word from Canon Schneider

I encounter many people who struggle with prayer. I'd even venture a guess that most of you reading this struggle at some level with prayer. You know or feel you ought to do it and with some regularity, but nonetheless you struggle. I feel your pain.

Rather than give you a plan for prayer right now, I mostly want to convince you of the necessity for prayer. It seems from the Bible that God wants us to pray. I know this because prayer is a consistent topic throughout the entire Bible.

There are some obvious places to go for descriptions and instructions on prayer like the book of Psalms, but I love looking at how to pray with the simple, Kingdom-focused Lord's Prayer. But he also demonstrated a robust prayer life and told parables on prayer.

Jesus prayed a lot. Which makes me wonder, isn't he God? Why did Jesus need to pray? He prayed for much the same reason he was baptized – to identify with us and to demonstrate his submission to his Father's will. Jesus did not do anything without consulting his Father first, which is why he prayed, and he prayed every day for what seems like quite a while.

Jesus also gave clear promises about prayer. He basically says that we should go ahead and ask God for things and expect God to deliver. The parables of the friend at midnight and the persistent widow are two such occasions, and there are others. The types of prayers we can be confident God answers are the ones that we know God agrees with related to his will and mission for the world – concern to see all people come to himself. So if you want to see some prayers answered, start praying for specific people to meet Jesus!

But we can talk to God about anything, ask him anything. He may not answer it the way you expect. But God hears your prayers. Prayer puts you in tune with God's will and in touch with God. God loves it when you pray.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

- Matthew 7:7

Volunteer with Lenten Lunches

Join us in February for a time of fun and fellowship as a Lenten Lunches volunteer. Whether you have a heart for creating hospitality through food or a desire to pray for an extended period to time to personally pray for the Advent.

In addition, Dean Pearson is setting aside some regularity, but nonetheless you struggle. I feel your pain.

In the Refectory.

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Canon Hicks

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Preacher: Canon Hicks

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

This Sunday:
January 5, 2020

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Canon Hicks

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Preacher: Canon Hicks

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Hicks

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Schneider

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

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/Live.
Dean Pearson Sets Personal Time of Prayer for the Advent, Invites Requests

Dean Andrew Pearson will set aside an extended period of time to pray for our Advent family of faith January 6-8. He will pray in general for the church as we enter 2020 and continue seeking ways to collectively grow in gospel-confidence and make disciples wherever God places us. Dean Pearson will also join individuals in praising God for the blessings of this life and praying specifically for God’s attention to requests for help or healing. These praises and prayer requests will be kept confidential and may be submitted by email to the Dean at Andrew@CathedralAdvent.com.

Slate Named for 2020 Vestry Election

The Vestry approved a slate of 20 candidates for the 2020 Vestry election at its meeting on December 12. The nominees are as follows:


Parishioners will elect 10 of these nominees to serve on the Vestry of the Cathedral Church of the Advent at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. The meeting will also feature Dean Pearson’s annual address to the Parish.

Livestream Set for 9:00 a.m. Service

We’re excited to announce the addition of a livestream of our 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Nave on our website! The complete worship service will be available in audio format each Sunday morning at AdventBirmingham.org/Live. We invite you to tune in and share the link with your family and friends who live too far away to join us in person.

Edward Parmentier to Perform Harpsichord Concert January 9

Edward Parmentier (above) will present a recital on the Advent’s newly acquired harpsichord on Thursday, January 9, 7:30 p.m. in the Nave.

Internationally renowned for his brilliant performances of early keyboard music, Edward Parmentier has performed widely throughout the United States, Western Europe, Russia, Japan, and Korea on harpsichord and historic organs. His recordings have received both critical and popular acclaim. He is Professor Emeritus of Harpsichord at the University of Michigan, where he was one of the principal teachers of our own Associate Director of Music, Charles Kennedy.

Mr. Parmentier’s program at the Advent will include music by J.S. Bach, John Bull, William Byrd, Girolamo Frescobaldi, Johann Jakob Froberger, and Domenico Scarlatti. All are warmly invited to this free performance in our Concert Series.

Ageless Adventers Fellowship in the Pines January 6

All Adventers are invited to join our friends at St. Martin’s for lunch and a word from Canon Smalley on Monday, January 6, at noon. Lunch is served in the private dining room of The Arbors at St. Martin’s (4941 Montevallo Road, 35210). Find out more by contacting Stella Schreiber (205-443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

Michael Weeks to Kick Off the New Year's Third Wednesday Series

Michael Weeks, the Advent’s Assisting Clergy, will speak at the first Third Wednesday gathering of 2020 on January 15, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). All ages are welcome at this Ageless Adventer event. Please RSVP to Stella Schreiber (205-443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

January 5, 2020
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

**education**

**Inquirers’ Class**  
**New Session Begins January 12**

The next Inquirers’ Class series will begin on Sunday, January 12, and run through March 15 (no meeting on January 26 or February 16). The eight-week series meets in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance in the garden area).

The Inquirers’ Class is an adult education course that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. It is open to anyone, but it is designed particularly for newcomers to the Advent. Questions? Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).

**Women’s Bible Study**  
**Study Jonah with Virginia Webster, Starting January 8**

Virginia Webster will begin a new women’s study of Jonah on January 8, meeting on Wednesdays through February 26, 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209).

People who have never read the Bible know enough to joke about Jonah spending three days in a whale. Jonah was very good at running away from what God wanted him to do. Stories have a way of helping us see ourselves in the bigger picture of God’s story. We can all identify with Jonah. He wasn’t so impressive. In fact, when he finally does it right and preaches in Nineveh, he does it wrong by getting so mad at the very people God wanted to save. This eight-week Bible study is a glimpse into what it means to avoid God and be rescued by God.

All women of all ages are invited to come. Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562) for more information.

**worship**

**Evensong**  
**Sung Service of Evening Prayer January 16**

The Cathedral Choir will sing Choral Evensong on Thursday, January 16, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. Deacon Jacob will preach and officiate.

Evensong is the sung version of the Anglican Evening Prayer service. Drawn almost entirely from Scripture, it offers beautiful music, gospel messages, and a chance to rest after a busy workday. This contemplative service offers a midweek opportunity to invite your downtown working colleagues and friends to join you to experience the peace of Jesus Christ.

**Sr. High Youth**  
**We Heart Birmingham Weekend: A Heart for Our City**

We are so excited about our first-ever A Heart for Our City Weekend with Advent Youth Senior High. All students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us on Saturday, January 25, from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. for a day of exploring and learning about new parts of our city. We will visit Brother Bryan Mission, do a poverty simulation, have a Birmingham scavenger hunt, and visit the Civil Rights Museum. We will end the weekend by worshiping at the 16th Street Baptist Church on Sunday morning at their 11:00 a.m. service. Cost for the weekend is $25. Register at AdventBirmingham.org/News.

**Youth Confirmation**  
**Classes for 6th Graders Begin February 2**

All current 6th graders are invited and encouraged to participate in Confirmation this spring. The semester-long experience will begin on Sunday, February 2, and run through the beginning of May, ending with Confirmation on May 6. Find out more by contacting Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com).

**serving & outreach**

**Thursday Morning Congregation**

**Christmas Social Brings Blessings for All Present**

Many thanks to the parishioners who helped to host our annual Christmas Social for the Thursday service congregation on December 19 (photo above). It was a joyous occasion with much food and fellowship. Our coat pop-up shop was also a huge blessing for many of our friends. We’re grateful for those who donated coats, brought food to the event, and enjoyed the time of celebration and made people feel welcome.

Please join us Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. for worship in the Nave!

**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 205-226-3500.
memorials:
Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:
Ouida Shelnutt: (Endowment Fund) by Pat Logan; Susan Harris
Charles Eugene Sharp: (Endowment Fund) by Mary Reid and
Bill Fisher; Elberta Reid; Mrs. John Forney • (Mission and Out-
reach) by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez • (Cathedral
Choir Fund) by Charlotte Murdock
Florence Keen: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Charlotte Murdock

Susan Bowry Bryan: (Mission and Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs.
Donald Y. Menendez
Constance Swartz: (Pastoral Care) by Mrs. Thomas A.S. Wilson
Marjory Jackson Ogard: (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and
Victor Hanson
In Thanksgiving for Samuel E. Urmey: (Music Discretionary
Fund) by Christy M. Chrisenberry
In Honor of Bonnie and Chris Krebs: (Mission and Outreach) by
Frank and Laurie Jones

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. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon
The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Every Sunday: Breakfast – Refectory, 8:00 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 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).