News & Events

Lent at the Advent

For more than a century, Lent at the Advent has meant preaching, wonderful food, and rich fellowship. We continue to gather to hear the promises of God, inviting all who are weary and heavy laden to hear the strengthening word of the gospel. This issue of the Adventurer contains a variety of information about our Preaching and Lunches series. We hope to see you here!

Ash Wednesday Is February 26

Worship schedule:

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes; Advent School Ensemble sings; nursery open
12:05 p.m. Lenten Preaching Series and Lenten Lunches begin
6:00 p.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes; Cathedral Choir sings; nursery open

Michael Weeks will preach at the 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. services.

A Word from the Dean

There is no biblical requirement to “keep” Lent, but the Book of Common Prayer invites us “to the observance of a holy Lent.” The whole point of Lent is to better understand our own nature as sinful and broken people, but above all the glorious grace of our Savior Jesus Christ “who came into the world to save sinners.”

Lent is not a competition. It is not about being able to prove one’s willpower. In fact, Lent is about the opposite. The best thing that could happen to someone who wants to prove themselves is for them to eat the entire bag of potato chips the Saturday before Easter.

There are also those who rejoice to find the loophole of Sundays off from their self-denial. If this is you, you’ve already lost touch with what Lent is all about. It is not about showing the ability to resist temptation, but your inability to do it in your own strength. If Christianity can be reduced to behavioral modification and the ability to get one’s act together, why did Jesus come into this world at all?

Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”

- Matthew 9:12

This Sunday:
February 23, 2020

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Dean Pearson
9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Dean Pearson
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Pearson
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Hicks
5:00 p.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Canon Hicks

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.
The Dean’s Class (Nave) – Ephesians – Dean Pearson
Inquirers’ Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – Fellowship and Gathering – Canon Hicks
Sibling Rivalries in Scripture: Lessons in Divine Providence (Living Room) – Dennis Sansom
Prophetic Portraits of God (Assembly Hall) – Mark Gignilliat
Faith and Family (Lower School Library) – Parent Traps: Losing Sight of the Big Picture – Craig Ogard

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.

Lecitonomy:
Psalm 2 or 99
Exodus 24:12-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

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.
GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT’S GOING ON!

worship

Lenten Preaching this Week

Bishop Sloan to Open Series on Ash Wednesday, February 26

John McKee “Kee” Sloan was seated as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese 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 before his call to be Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Huntsville, Alabama, where he served for 14 years.

In 1998 Bishop Sloan began the Special Session program at Camp McDowell for special-needs campers, and he has participated in nearly 20 medical mission trips to Honduras. He is the author of Jabbok and its sequel, Beulah, theological novels using settings and characters from his life. Last year Bishop Sloan announced that he would retire at the end of 2020. He is married to Tina, and they have two adult children.

Michael Keller to Preach Thursday and Friday

Michael Keller, Pastor of Redeemer-Lincoln Square Church in New York City, will preach Thursday and Friday, February 27 and 28, at 12:05 p.m.

Dr. Keller has been a part of Redeemer life and ministry from its inception in 1989. He started Redeemer-Lincoln Square with his wife Sara and two daughters in 2017.

The son of Tim and Kathy Keller and a native of New York, he graduated from Vanderbilt University before working at London City Mission. After earning two degrees from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, he served as Pastor of Community Life at Citylife Presbyterian Church in Boston, Massachusetts. From there Dr. Keller returned to New York to start a new Reformed University Fellowship. His Ph.D. is from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in Computational Linguistics applied to Historical Theology.

Lenten Preaching Schedule

The Lenten Preaching service is held 12:05-12:30 p.m. every weekday during Lent. Here is the schedule:

Ash Wednesday, February 26: Kee Sloan, Bishop, Diocese of Alabama; Birmingham, Alabama
Thursday-Friday, February 27-28: Michael Keller, Pastor, Redeemer-Lincoln Square Church; New York City
Monday-Friday, March 2-6: John Guest, Minister-at-Large, Christ Church at Grove Farm; Sewickley, Pennsylvania
Monday-Wednesday, March 9-11: Heidi Kinner, Associate Chaplain, Christ Memorial Chapel; Hobie Sound, Florida
Thursday, March 12: Douglas Sweeney, Dean and Professor of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School; Birmingham, Alabama
Friday, March 13: Mat Alexander, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church; Gadsden, Alabama

serving & outreach

Lenten Lunches

Join Us for Lunch Weekdays During Lent

We serve Lenten Lunches starting Ash Wednesday and continuing every weekday during Lent, 12:05-1:00 p.m. (except Good Friday). Please join us for a delicious meal at a reasonable price, hand prepared by members of the Advent. All proceeds support Maranathan Academy in Birmingham (see story on page 3).

Do you long for a meaningful way to serve during Lent? We still need volunteers! Are you looking for a great way to connect with your friends, family, and neighbors who will be attending Lenten services or work downtown? We have lunch tickets for sale! Find out more by stopping by the Lenten Lunches table in Clingman Commons this Sunday morning, February 23. For information on volunteer options, contact Marilyn Dixon (MHulsey1971@me.com).

Monday-Wednesday, March 16-18: Frank Limehouse, Chaplain, Christ Memorial Chapel; Hobie Sound, Florida
Thursday-Friday, March 19-20: Mark Upton, Pastor, Hope Community Church; Charlotte, North Carolina
Monday-Tuesday, March 23-24: Leigh Spruill, Rector, St. George’s Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tennessee
Wednesday-Thursday, March 25-26: Leslie Housman, Director of Women’s Ministry, Christ Church; Plano, Texas
Friday, March 27: Jay Gardner, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church; Cullman, Alabama
Monday-Wednesday, March 30-31: Alan Jacobs, Professor of Humanities, Baylor University; Waco, Texas
Wednesday-Friday, April 1-3: Aaron Zimmerman, Rector, St. Alban’s Episcopal Church; Waco, Texas
Monday-Wednesday, April 6-8: Wes Hill, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, Trinity School for Ministry; Ambridge, Pennsylvania
Maundy Thursday, April 9: Murray Lee, Senior Pastor, Cahaba Park Church; Birmingham, Alabama
Good Friday, April 10 (Service starts at noon): Andrew Pearson, Dean and Rector, Cathedral Church of the Advent; Birmingham, Alabama
Shuttle Bus Offered for Lenten Preaching and Lunches

A shuttle bus will travel to the church from the parking lot of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church each weekday of Lent. The bus will leave Shades Valley Presbyterian (located at 2305 Montevallo Road, 35223) at 11:30 a.m. and return no later than 1:30 p.m.

Nursery Provided on Mondays and Thursdays

We offer a nursery for children ages 6 weeks-4K on Mondays and Thursdays during Lent, from 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. To ensure adequate staffing, please email Lila Wooten (Lila@CathedralAdvent.com) a few days in advance to make your child’s reservation.

Audio Recordings Available on Our Website

Recordings of all our Lenten Preaching sermons will be available online at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

Book Store Open Additional Hours During Lent

The Advent Bookstore will open two additional days during the season of Lent. In addition to its normal hours – Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – the store will be open Tuesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact the store (205-323-2959, Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting March 2

Among the ways that the Book of Common Prayer invites us to “the observance of a holy Lent” is “by prayer” (BCP pg. 265). All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering on Monday, March 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.

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.

marking & outreach

Maranathan Academy

Lenten Lunches Proceeds to Benefit Birmingham School

Lenten Lunches kicks off this year on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Like last year, our outreach partnership is with Maranathan Academy. Net proceeds from the lunches will be given to this wonderful school. In 2019, Lenten Lunches provided scholarships for two individuals to attend Maranathan for one year.

Maranathan Academy is a school and learning center for grades 6-12, funded entirely by scholarships. It was founded in 1991 by Donna Dukes for the purpose of providing a safe haven and second chance for critically at-risk youth. Students benefit from counseling services, workshops on financial literacy, life-skills training and more. Fifty-three percent of the Maranathan graduates have entered colleges and universities, while the remaining 47 percent have entered the military or become certified in a trade and gainfully employed.

Students enter Maranathan wounded and looking for a place to belong. They emerge equipped to excel.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

- The Collect for Ash Wednesday, BCP pg. 166

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:
Kathleen Duggan: (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson
In Honor of Jane and Don Menendez: (Endowment Fund) by Lila Wooten
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

memorials:
Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:
Thomas A.S. Wilson: (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Kathryn Porter
Frank H. Bromberg, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Kathryn Porter
Billy W. Spain, Jr.: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Elizabeth Spain

Ana Kelly Jemison Lacy, Carol J. Lacy, and Alex S. Lacy: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Alex Lacy
In Thanksgiving for Leatrice Ford: (Mission and Outreach) by Anonymous
In Honor of Margaret and John Harper: (Christian Education) by Dennis Ingley
In Honor of Idabelle Gay's 90th Birthday: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Bill McElwee

transitions:
Death: Jeremy “Jerry” Isadore Levin, on February 6

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

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).