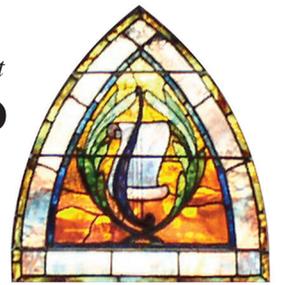


# Adventurer

Lent



OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Vol. 44, No. 12

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Week of March 22, 2020



## News & Events

### Advent Responds to Rapidly Changing COVID-19 Information

As information changes rapidly related to COVID-19 (also known as the coronavirus), we continue to pay close attention and reevaluate plans often. Under no circumstances do we want to put Adventers, volunteers, or church staff in harms way or contribute to the spread of illness in our church and Birmingham communities. Changes to our plans regarding worship services and ministry gatherings will be posted to our website ([AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus)) and social media pages.

### Lenten Preaching this Week: Leigh Spruill and the Return of Leslie Housman and Jay Gardner

Leigh Spruill, Rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee, is scheduled to preach Monday and Tuesday, March 23-24, at 12:05 p.m. Leslie Housman, Director of Women's Ministry at Christ Church Anglican in Plano, Texas, and former Advent parishioner and staffer, is slated to preach Wednesday and Thursday, March 25-26. Jay Gardner, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Cullman, Alabama, and a former youth minister at the Advent, is set to preach on Friday, March 27.



## A Word from the Dean

As I write this, Italy is under complete lockdown, and Israel is not admitting foreign nationals and requiring all returning Israelis to self-quarantine for two weeks. All of the experts say that coronavirus will be upon us as well and that March and April, at the least, will be disrupted by the virus. Many of us are already experiencing the ramifications of COVID-19, in our daily lives and in our pocketbooks.

This illness is especially hard, I think, for Americans. We are a resilient people and rarely fathom failure. The reason why there is such fear for us is that we can do little to control it. Of course, we can take precautions, but the reason why we buy out all of the toilet paper is that we never feel that it's enough.

What does God say to us when we encounter such fear? "[D]o not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Jesus is speaking of those on earth who have the ability to put to death those who stand firm in their faith, but the principle

is the same. Coronavirus should cause us to contemplate our mortality. We don't like to think about death, and will occupy ourselves with any number of things to distract us, but it will come to all of us.

Jesus wants us to have an eternal perspective on our existence, not just an earthly one. Though the chances are small that anyone reading this will die of COVID-19, it is right and good for us to think on our mortality.

Further, Jesus reminds us not to fear things like coronavirus, but to fear God. I'm not advocating a Mark 16 approach where caution is thrown to the wind, but to understand that for those of us in Christ, "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).

Jesus goes on to say to us, "Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31). He knows when the sparrow falls, the number of hairs on your head, he knows you because you are his. You have acknowledged him, and he has acknowledged you (Matthew 10:32).

Yes, wash your hands, but also seek the Lord Jesus who washes all of you with his precious blood. Find your security in him, rest in his love, and see fear cast out.

- Andrew

## This Sunday: March 22, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we will not gather together in the Nave or Refectory for worship this Sunday, March 22, or next Sunday, March 29. Please join us via livestream for worship at 9:00 a.m. and for the Dean's Class immediately afterward. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live) to access our livestream.

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

Adult classes will not meet at the Advent this Sunday, March 22, or next Sunday, March 29. The Dean's Class will be available via livestream on these Sundays. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live). Recordings of past classes are available on our website at [AdventBirmingham.org/Audio](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Audio).

### Children's & Youth Education:

Due to the COVID-19 situation (also known as the coronavirus), children's and youth classes will not meet this Sunday, March 22, or next Sunday, March 29, and the Nursery will be closed. Please check [AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Coronavirus) for information regarding this rapidly changing situation.

### Lectionary:

Psalms 23; 1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

*The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live).  
Sermon and class recordings are available at [AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org).*

## 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

## transitions:

**Birth:** Emerson Grace Alvis, daughter of Stewart and Kelsey, on January 2

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Theodore Dasher:** (Lenten Lunches) by the Front Porch Storytellers

**Mabelle McCollum:** (Endowment Fund) by Robert and Alice Kuzniak; Sue and John McConnell

**Robert MacElvain:** (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson

**Ronnie Richard:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Lindsey and Patrick Druhan



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 22 Livestream service at 9:00 a.m.	23 Lenten Preaching - Leigh Spruill - 12:05 p.m.	24 Lenten Preaching - Leigh Spruill - 12:05 p.m.	25 Lenten Preaching - Leslie Housman - 12:05 p.m.	26 Lenten Preaching - Leslie Housman - 12:05 p.m.	27 Lenten Preaching - Jay Gardner - 12:05 p.m.	28
Mar 29 Livestream service at 9:00 a.m.	30 Lenten Preaching - Alan Jacobs - 12:05 p.m.	31 Lenten Preaching - Alan Jacobs - 12:05 p.m.	Apr 1 Lenten Preaching - Aaron Zimmerman - 12:05 p.m.	2 Lenten Preaching - Aaron Zimmerman - 12:05 p.m.	3 Lenten Preaching - Aaron Zimmerman - 12:05 p.m.	4

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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/BibleStudies) for a complete list of options available to you. If you have any questions, please contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 443-8562).