

Church of the Advent  
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 Williamston, NC 27892  
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 Rev. Connelly: 704-651-0244  
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The Right Reverend Robert Skirving..... Bishop, Diocese of East Carolina  
 The Reverend Connie Connelly ..... Priest in Charge  
 Joe Jernigan..... Parish Administrator  
 Brandon Woody ..... Organist/Choirmaster

**Vestry and Ministries**

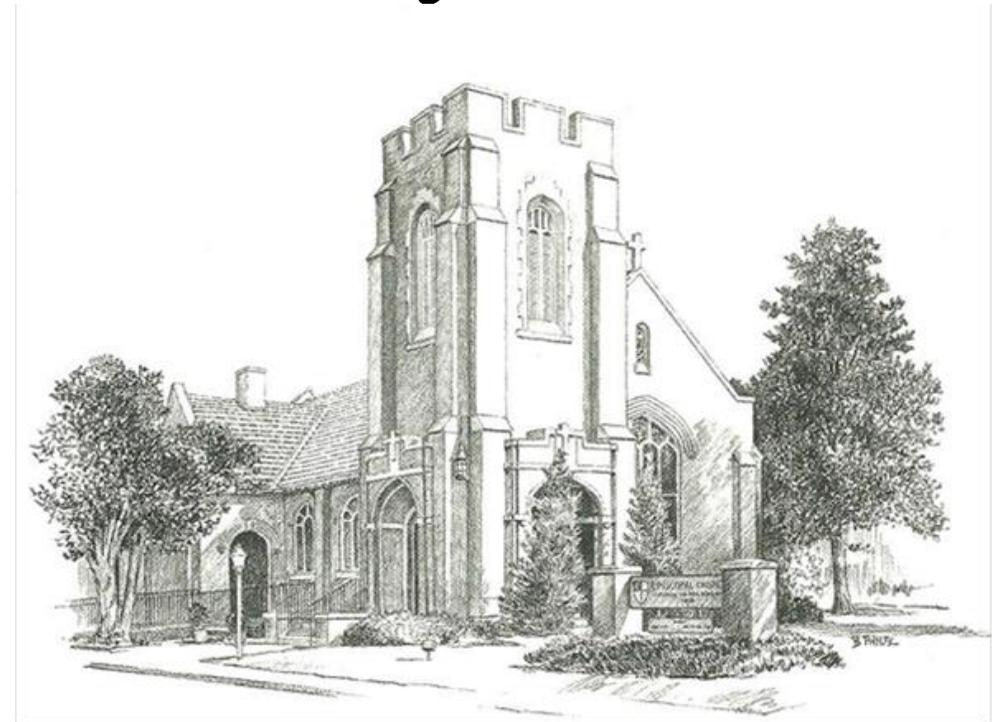
Doug Chesson ..... Senior Warden  
 Doug Chesson ..... Junior Warden/Buildings & Grounds  
 Kit Reddick..... Clerk  
 Lowell Taylor.....Treasurer  
 Lori Taylor..... Altar Guild  
 Bill Webb..... Acolytes  
 Joe Jernigan..... Ushers  
 Lucia Peel ..... Episcopal Church Women/Parish Life  
 Kit Reddick..... Outreach

<u>2021-2023</u>	<u>2022-2024</u>	<u>2023-2025</u>
Lucia Peel	Michael Biondi	Jim Allen
Lowell Taylor	Doug Chesson	Frankie Biggs
Chloe Tuttle	Cathy Skinner	Kit Reddick

**Worship Assistants**

	<u>January 29</u>	<u>February 5</u>
	Kit Reddick	
<b>MP Leader</b>	Jane Jernigan	John Price
<b>Acolyte</b>	Bill Webb	Kit Reddick
<b>Lector</b>		John Price
<b>Intercessor</b>		Bob Greene
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Don Beach	Janice Greene
<b>Usher</b>	Lowell Taylor	
<b>Usher</b>		

# Church of the Advent



*Established 1850*

*The Church of the Advent is a nurturing, vibrant, and inclusive community inviting spiritual growth through liturgical worship, outreach, and fellowship.*

## The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Spiritual Communion

January 29, 2023

11:00 A.M.

*The time prior to the start of the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection.  
Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. **Please silence all electronic devices.**  
S denotes Service Music found at the beginning of the hymnal.  
BCP refers to the Book of Common Prayer.*

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## PRELUDE

**OPENING HYMN** (*stand*)      *Blessed Jesus, at thy word*      Hymnal 440

## The Word of God

*Celebrant*    Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.      BCP 355

*People*      ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

*Celebrant*    Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

**GLORY TO GOD**      *Gloria in excelsis*      Hymnal S-280

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*      ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.  
Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in  
heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of  
your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

**FIRST LESSON** (*sit*) *Micah 6:1-8*

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

**PSALM** *45:1-2, 7-10*



1 ***Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \****  
***who may abide upon your holy hill?***

2 ***Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \****  
***who speaks the truth from his heart.***

3 *There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.*

4 *In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.*

5 *He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.*

6 *He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.*

7 *Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.*

**SECOND LESSON** *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

A reading from the Apostle Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is

the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN** (*stand*) *In the cross of Christ I glory*

Hymnal 441

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 5:1-12*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**SERMON** (*sit*)

**NICENE CREED** (*stand*)

BCP 358

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Form III*

BCP 387

**CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION** (*kneel*)

BCP 360

**THE PEACE** (*stand*)

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

BCP 360

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (*sit*)

**OFFERTORY**

PRESENTATION OF ALMS AND OBLATIONS (*please stand*)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*please be seated*) *Bread of the World in Mercy Broken*

RESPONSE (*please stand*) *Earth has many a noble city (verse 3)* Hymnal 127

**THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

I invite you now to join in an act of spiritual communion whereby we seek with heart and body to make our full communion with God, beginning with the words our Lord Himself taught us to pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory.

And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated

from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection has delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart!*

Hymnal 556

**DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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*Calendar*

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Sunday Feb 5      9:30 am, Choir Practice  
                                 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist  
                                 12:00 noon, Vestry Meeting

Wednesday Feb 8      6:00 am, Evening Prayer

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*Announcements*

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- ✚ There is a vestry meeting next Sunday following the service.
  
- ✚ This being the last Sunday of the month, loose cash offerings are deposited into the Discretionary Fund, which is a separate account set up in each Episcopal Church to provide for charitable uses as determined by the Priest, assisting those inside or outside the parish who present with an emergency financial hardship, such as housing, utilities or food assistance. By Canon Law, these funds cannot be used for any other purpose.
  
- ✚ The new 2023 Parish Directory has been completed. If you haven't gotten your copy yet, they are in the narthex.