

Church of the Advent  
 124 West Church Street P.O. Box 463  
 Williamston, NC 27892  
 Office: 252-792-2244

Rev. Connelly: 704-651-0244

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com ~ advent1850@gmail.com

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  
 Michael Biondi ..... 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

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

**Worship Assistants**

	<b><u>March 26</u></b>	<b><u>April 2</u></b>
<b>MP Leader</b>	John Price	
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Lector</b>	Jane Jernigan	Kit Reddick
<b>Intercessor</b>		Kit Reddick
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>		Doug Chesson
<b>Usher</b>	Johnny Miller	Jim Allen
<b>Usher</b>	Ellen Miller	Maria Allen

# 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 Fifth Sunday in Lent Morning Prayer: Rite II

March 26, 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.*

---

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING HYMN** (*stand*)      *All my hope on God is founded*      Hymnal 665

**OPENING SENTENCES**      BCP 78

**GENERAL CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION** (*kneel*)      BCP 79

**INVITATORY AND PSALTER** (*stand*)

*Officiant*      Lord, open our lips.

*People*      ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

**VENITE**      *Psalm 95:1-7*      BCP 82

**PSALM** (*sit*) 130      *Spoken*

1 ***Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.***

2 ***If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,  
O Lord, who could stand?***

3 ***For there is forgiveness with you;  
therefore you shall be feared.***

4 ***I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.***

5 ***My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.***

6 ***O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy;***

7 ***With him there is plenteous redemption,  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

**The Lessons**

**FIRST LESSON** *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

**SONG OF PENITENCE** (*stand*)      *Kyrie Pantokrator*

BCP 90

**SECOND LESSON** (*sit*) *Romans 8:6-11*

A reading from the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

**SONG OF ZECHARIAH**      *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

BCP 92

**THIRD LESSON** (*sit*) *John 11:1-45*

A reading from the Gospel of John.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be

all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you

that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** (*stand*) BCP 96

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (*sit*)

**OFFERTORY** (*stand*)

OFFERTORY ANTHEN (*sit*) *Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*

RESPONSE (*stand*) *All things are thine* 1940 Hymnal

**THE PRAYERS** (*kneel*)

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** BCP 97

**SUFFRAGES A** BCP 97

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**ADDITIONAL COLLECTS** BCP 98-100

**PETITIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS** Prayer Notebook

**THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING** BCP 101

**CLOSING HYMN** (*stand*) *Hail, thou once despised Jesus!* Hymnal 495

**DISMISSAL**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

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

---

**Calendar**

---

Sunday April 2	9:30 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist/Palm Sunday 12:00 noon, Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm, Cantata & Reception
Thursday April 6	6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Service
Friday April 7	6:00 pm, Good Friday Service
Sunday April 9	9:30 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist/Easter Sunday

---

**Announcements**

✝ This year the Altar Guild is not purchasing memorial Easter lilies. If a parishioner is interested in offering altar flowers for the service, please contact Lori and Joe with the information for the bulletin. According to the National Altar Guild, potted white lilies, potted hydrangeas (white, pink, or blue), cut hydrangeas, tulips, daffodils, and other potted spring-time flowering plants are appropriate for Easter.

✝ There will be a vestry meeting following the Palm Sunday service.

✝ April is our month to pack for Blessings in a Backpack. Our days are Wednesday, April 5, Wednesday, April 19, and THURSDAY, April 27. We will pack at the Memorial Baptist Church at 10:00. Please come out and help. If 6 to 8 volunteers are present, then we can be finished in an hour. Each time we are packing 88 bags but on April 5 we will pack double the number as the children are on Spring Break the following week.

✝ The parish choir, along with guest singers from neighboring churches and a chamber orchestra, will perform the lenten cantata "Colors of Grace" by Joseph Martin on Palm Sunday at 6 p.m. in the church. Following the performance, there will be a small reception in the parish hall.