

Church of the Advent
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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

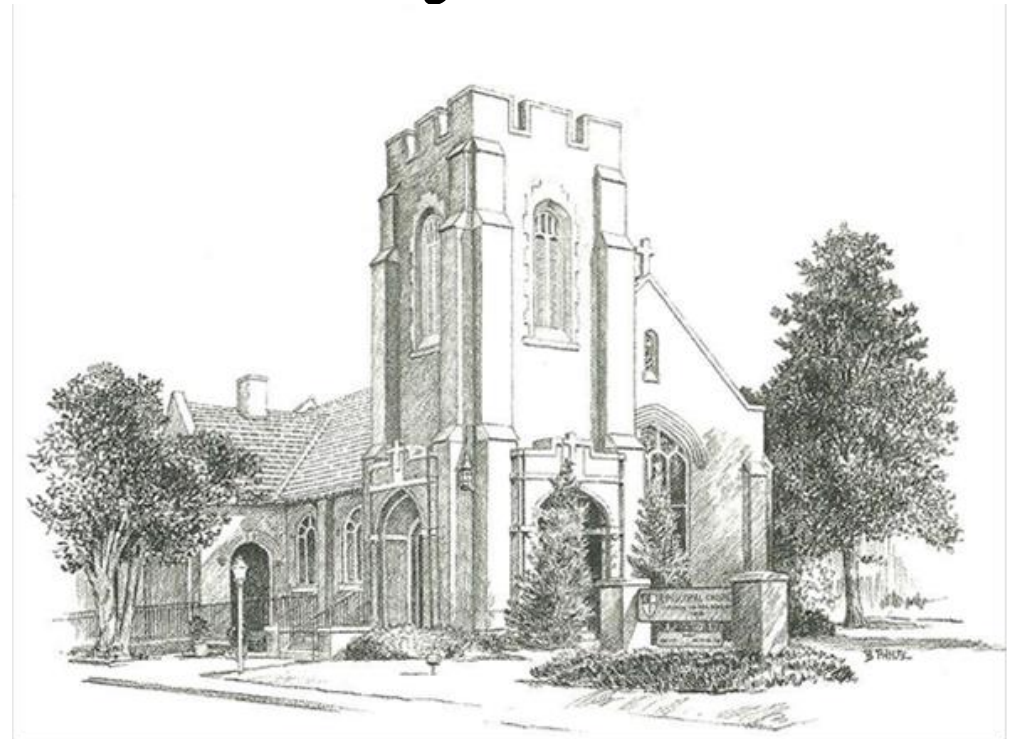
Doug Chesson Senior Warden
 Michael Biondi..... Junior Warden/Buildings & Grounds
 Kit Reddick..... Clerk
 Lowell Taylor.....Treasurer
 Lori Taylor..... Altar Guild
 Bill Webb..... Acolytes
 Joe Jernigan..... Ushers
 Lucia Peel Episcopal Church Women/Parish Life
 Kit Reddick..... Outreach

<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>May 14</u>	<u>May 21 @</u> <u>Green Acres</u>
MP Leader	Jane Jernigan	Kit Reddick
Lector	Michael Biondi	Kit Reddick
Intercessor	John Price	Doug Chesson
Eucharistic Minister		Joe Jernigan
Usher	Joe Jernigan	TBD
Usher	TBD	

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter Spiritual Communion

May 14, 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*) *As those of old their first fruits brought* Hymnal 705

The Word of God

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen. BCP 355

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.
O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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*) *Acts 17:22-31*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in

shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 66:7-18

7 **Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;**

8 **Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

9 **For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.**

10 **You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

11 **You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.**

12 **I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

13 *I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.*

14 *Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.*

15 *I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.*

16 *If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;*

17 *But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.*

18 *Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.*

SECOND LESSON *1 Peter 3:13-22*

A reading from the First Epistle of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels,

authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN (*stand*) *We plow the fields, and scatter the good seed* Hymnal 291

HOLY GOSPEL *John 14:15-21*

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

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

REFLECTION (*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*) BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*sit*)

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF ALMS AND OBLATIONS (*please stand*)

ANTHEM (*please be seated*) *God of the sparrow, God of the whale*

RESPONSE (*please stand*) *Alleluia, Alleluia, (verse 4)* Hymnal 178

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

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Hymnal 492

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Beverly Mills and in honor of all mothers by Don and Katie Mills.*

Calendar

Monday May 15	5:30 pm, Vestry Meeting
Sunday May 21	No Service at COA 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist @ Green Acres Campground 12:00 noon, Covered Dish Picnic in the Clubhouse
Sunday May 28	9:30 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Most gracious and gentle God, from the womb of your love you gave birth to all creation, and in your Son Jesus Christ you have revealed a loving-kindness that longs to gather your children under the shadow of your wings:

Bless, we pray, all the mothers in our lives, those who bore us and those who nurtured us, those we hold close and those we miss, those who showed us love and those who failed us.

Bless those mothers here present with the patience and wisdom, the gentleness and grace, the courage and strength of your mother, Mary.

Bless all mothers who weep and mourn for the loss of their children who now rest in your tender loving care.

Through the love of all mothers, may we all know the warmth of your tender mercies and the constancy of your unconditional love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

- ✚ For the foreseeable future, Comings and Goings will be coming from the church. Lucia and I have similar email lists but there are some differences. So if you know someone who is no longer getting Comings and Goings, let Joe know. Also If you have something you need to get into Comings and Goings, it's best to email the church at advent1850@gmail.com. You may also call the church office at 252-792-2244. I will try to send Comings and Goings out on Mondays or Tuesdays.

- ✚ Next Sunday morning's service on May 21 will move to the outdoor Amphitheater at the Green Acres Campground as part of the worship schedule for the campers. The service begins at 11:00 am. In case of rain, the service will move indoors to the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse is the place for a potluck picnic at noon. Picnickers need to be sure to bring utensils for their dishes as there is no kitchen in the Clubhouse. Tea, paperware and eating utensils are provided by Green Acres. Bob and Janice Greene extend a cordial and open invitation to the parish family to spend the afternoon enjoying the various activities offered by the campground. Parishioners need to be sure to identify themselves as members of the Church of the Advent to the staff when using the facilities.

- ✚ There is a vestry meeting tomorrow at 5:30 pm.

- ✚ All of the guaranteed rooms for Trinity are gone. Often other rooms are available or someone of our group has to cancel. So if you would like to get on a stand-by list, there is a stand-by sheet available in the narthex or see Joe. The date for the Parish Family Weekend this year is June 23-25.