

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**

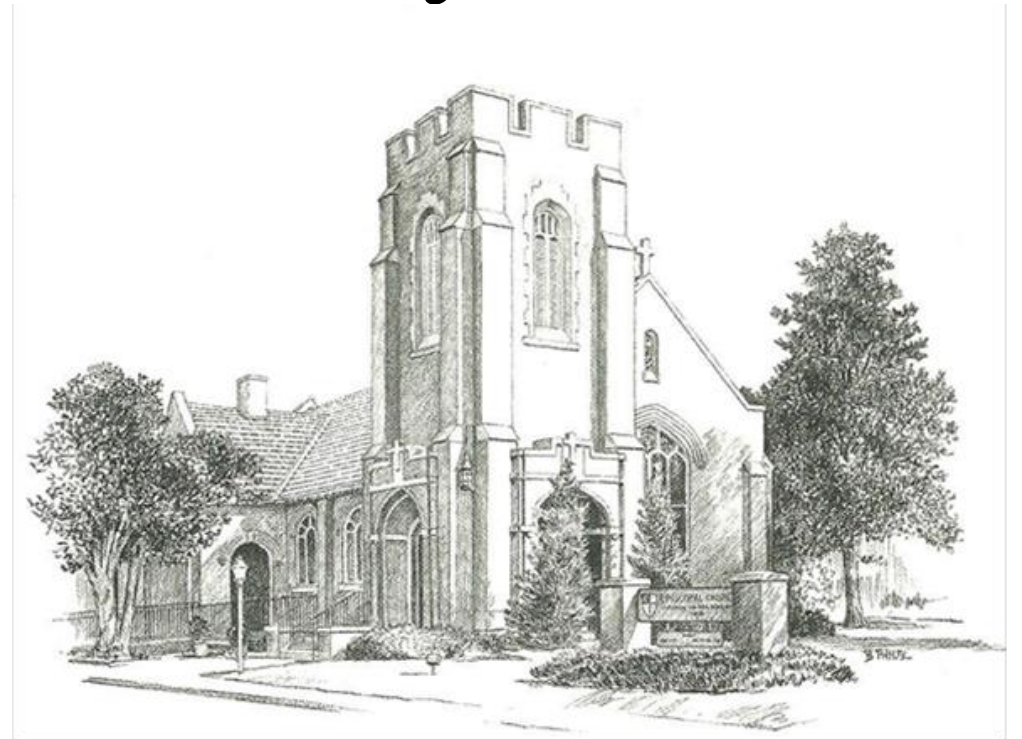
Doug Chesson ..... Senior Warden  
 Michael Biondi..... Junior Warden/Buildings & Grounds  
 Kit Reddick..... Clerk  
 Lowell Taylor.....Treasurer  
 Lori Taylor..... Altar Guild  
 Jim Allen ..... Pastoral Care  
 Joe Jernigan..... Ushers  
 John Price ..... Parish Life  
 Kit Reddick..... Episcopal Church Women/Outreach

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

**Worship Assistants**

	<u>July 9</u>	<u>July 16</u>
<b>Service Leader</b>	Jane Jernigan	
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Lector</b>	Valerie Cooke	Chuck Cohen
<b>Intercessor</b>		Cathy Cohen
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Don Beach	Chloe Tuttle
<b>Usher</b>	Joe Jernigan	Joe Jernigan
<b>Usher</b>	Jim Allen	Jim 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 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Spiritual Communion

July 9, 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.***

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**PRELUDE**

**OPENING HYMN** (*stand*)      *Love divine, all loves excelling*      Hymnal 657

**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**      *How wondrous and great thy works*      Hymnal 533

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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*) *Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67*

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master

Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

**PSALM 45: 11-18**

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

**SECOND LESSON** *Romans 7:15-25a*

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

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**GOSPEL HYMN** (*stand*) *Just as I am, without one plea*

Hymnal 693

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

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

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**REFLECTION** (*sit*)

**NICENE CREED** (*stand*)

BCP 358

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Form VI*

BCP 392

**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)*

RESPONSE *(please stand)* *Praise God from whom all blessings flow (verse 3)* Hymnal 380

**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** *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy* Hymnal 482

**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 July 16 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist  
12:00 noon, Vestry Meeting

Sunday July 23 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist

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*Announcements*

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✠ Later in the summer, we will need to do some changes to the altar guild and usher schedules. If you would like to serve on either (or serve as lector, Eucharistic minister, intercessor, etc. etc...) let Joe, Lori or Brandon know. Also let us know if you are already serving and would like to add another month, change your month or, just as importantly, don't want to change your month. We plan to have the changes made and in place beginning in September.

✠ There will be a vestry meeting next Sunday following the service.

✠ Khalil Jefferson Walk: Friends of Khalil Jefferson will hold a fundraising walk 10:00 am on July 15 at 2500 E. Fifth Street to raise funds to repair a dock on the South Tar Greenway as a memorial to Khalil and to inspire others to seek help on their journey to better mental health. Check out the fundraising page at [givebutter.com/23kWc9](http://givebutter.com/23kWc9) for more information and to sign up to donate to the cause, sponsor a walker or sign up to walk. Donations can also be sent to: (check) FROGGS PO Box 2540 Greenville, NC 27836 (web) FROGGS.org