



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
October 28, 2025 Newsletter
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost



Sermon Notes: Humility at the Heart of Prayer

On Sunday, Father Tryggvi opened our hearts with a humorous tale: riding around I-285 with him driving might just boost your prayer life! He shared the story of a taxi driver whose wild driving sparked fervent prayers from passengers, earning a heavenly reward greater than the bishop who merely preached in church. The laughter set the stage for a deeper lesson from Jesus' Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14), a story about humility, prayer, and God's unearned grace.

In this parable, Jesus speaks to those who trust in their own righteousness and look down on others. Two men enter the temple to pray: a Pharisee, proud of his religious devotion, and a tax collector, burdened by his sins. The Pharisee's prayer is a boast: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people—thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I tithe all my income." Standing apart, the tax collector can't even lift his eyes to heaven. Beating his breast, he prays, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Jesus declares that it's the tax collector, not the Pharisee, who goes home justified, for "all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Father Tryggvi reflected, “These two men show us how our view of ourselves before God shapes our prayers and actions.” The Pharisee, a religious leader known for strict adherence to the Law, prays not to God but to himself, creating a “personal god” who despises the same people he does. His pride blinds him to his need for grace. The tax collector, despised for his role in Roman oppression, offers a humble plea that opens his soul to God’s mercy.

“We all carry traits of both men,” Tryggvi admitted. “I’ve never thanked God for being ‘better’ than others, but my actions sometimes suggest otherwise. I’ve judged others without seeing my own flaws.” His honesty invites us to reflect: When do we act like the Pharisee, measuring our worth against others? When do we approach God like the tax collector, with hearts open to mercy?

This parable echoes Luke’s theme of reversal—God lifts the lowly and challenges the proud. Like the rich ruler who struggles to enter the kingdom of Heaven (Luke 18:25), the Pharisee’s self-righteousness narrows his soul’s door to God’s grace. Yet, as Tryggvi reminded us, “God grants us the possibility to grow in relationship with Him. The tax collector got it right: his humble heart allowed God to shape him. That’s what makes all the difference. May we open our souls to the God who desires to grow within us, transforming us by grace.”

Question for Reflection: In this coming week, can we learn to pray like the tax collector, seeking God’s mercy with humility?

In Christ+, Kim

Father Tryggvi will be away on November 2nd. Our prayer service on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. will be led by the Reverend Harold Lockett.

Join us as Advent celebrates All Saints’ Day this Sunday, November 2nd. November 1 is All Saints’ Day, one of the principal feasts of The Episcopal Church, a day to remember the saints, known and unknown. Since November 1 falls on Sunday only every five or six years, it’s the custom of the Episcopal Church to “transfer” the observance of All Saints’ Sunday to the Sunday closest to, but after, November 1. This year, Advent will celebrate All Saints’ Sunday on November 2nd. We will be reciting the names of those who have asked for inclusion during the service. **Names for All Saints Sunday: Please reach out to the church if you have a departed loved one whom you would like to be honored. You can also email your requests to info@adventmadisonga.com**

The flowers at the altar on Sunday, the second of November, are given to the Glory of God and in memory of [Kate Curtis Johnson](#), daughter of Shelley MacMillan.

First Wednesday Get-Together
Shelley MacMillan • 1101 Plainview Road
Wednesday, November 5 • 5:30 PM

Our “First Wednesday” in November is at Shelley MacMillan’s farm on Plainview Road. Come meet your fellow fabulous Advent parishioners! This monthly gathering is especially good for newcomers. Ask a couple of folks and they’ll tell you what fun these get-togethers are! We encourage you to bring wine or an hors d’oeuvre. Abundant parking. We’re starting earlier than usual because of the change in seasons. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Hospitality Committee: We will have a meeting on **Monday, November 3, 10:30** in the parish house. Please contact Vic if you have any questions. vicjacksonga@aol.com

Volunteer for Council Delegate: We are seeking a parishioner to be one of Advent's delegates to represent our parish at the Diocesan Annual Council! The 119th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta will be held on November 7-8 at the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the larger workings of the Episcopal Church. Delegates participate in legislative and business sessions of the diocese and have the opportunity to meet and worship with members of other parishes in our diocese, as well as learn about the variety of ministries throughout the diocese. If you would like to serve as a delegate, please submit your name in an email to: priest@adventmadisonga.com by **October 24**. [Here is the Agenda and Committees:](#)

Friday, November 7

7:30 – Check-in and Light Breakfast
8:45 – Gathering Music in Nave
9:00 – Holy Eucharist
10:30 – Business Session 1
Noon – Lunch
1:15 – Bishop's Address and Business Session 2
3:00 – 4:30 – Committee Meetings

Saturday, November 8

7:30 – Registration and Delegate Changes
Light Breakfast
9:00 – Call to Order
Youth Led Worship
9:30 – Business Session 3
Closing prayers and adjournment
12:00 – Adjourn

Committees:

- Community Ministries
- Congregational Vitality
- Constitution & Canons
- Finance
- Youth & Campus Ministries

Stewardship Campaign: By now, parishioners should have received mail and email containing pledge cards and other information. If you haven't, please email info@adventmadisonga.com.

O. J. Booker: What Stewardship means to me: I appreciate the opportunity to explain why this building, and our church, is important to me. I've walked through these doors hundreds of times since I joined Advent when I moved here in 2009. I've seen many of the same people—at least many of you—probably the same number of times. There is something that a building does to me. The building is the way that I meld with the thing that makes it special. It becomes a part of me. I do love the architecture of this church, and I do love the way it's laid out. But my love for this building it is not why I'm here. What drew me to Advent is that I am an Episcopalian. I'm not a cradle Episcopalian or an adolescent Episcopalian—I'm an adult Episcopalian, all of my own choosing. My transformation occurred in 1996 at Rotary when I sat across from a priest wearing a collar. I liked him so much that he inspired me to attend my first 8:00 a.m. service, and since that time, I have never stopped going.

Why? Because I love this Faith. It suits me. It makes me feel seen, known, and held by a God of deep understanding—right here, in this place. That’s what keeps me coming. When I moved here in 2009, I sat in that pew—where you’ll still usually find me on Sundays. And I noticed a beautiful blonde bombshell sitting behind me in the back of the church, who kept moving forward week by week. Over time, fate smiled, and I married that remarkable woman here, in this very church.

Why do I support this church? Because it is special in an undefinable way to me. I know some of you have not been worshipping at Advent as long as I have. You may not feel the same mystery yet, the same draw, or the same attraction that I experience when I come here, but give it time. It will work its magic on you.

This is stewardship season when we talk about giving time, talent, and treasure. My point is this: I find it worth it. It is a part of me, and I hope it never goes away. And I hope that you will feel that it is worth it to you to contribute your time, your talents and your money, what is possible for you to do, to keep Advent a strong, viable place for all of us to gather for fellowship, to support each other, and to practice our Christian faith.

Anna Marrett: What Stewardship means to me: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/elfN_cr68Wo

Save the Date - Ingathering Sunday – November 16: Mark your calendars for Ingathering Sunday on November 16! In the spirit of Episcopal tradition, join us in this cherished rite where parishioners process forward during the Eucharist to present their pledges, as a joyful commitment of financial stewardship for the year ahead. Drawing from the Book of Common Prayer’s emphasis on thanksgiving and common worship, this act symbolizes your personal "ingathering" of blessings, offered in community for the growth and mission of our parish.

Rooted in gratitude, Ingathering Sunday echoes the ancient harvest festival of Sukkot from Jesus' time—a season of thanksgiving for God's abundant provision—as well as our Anglican heritage of stewarding resources for the spreading of the Gospel. In our Episcopal faith, it invites reflection on how we've been blessed, responding through generous giving that funds our ministries, outreach, sacramental worship, and diocesan operations, all in service to God's kingdom.

Come, unite in this honored moment of collective dedication, embodying our shared baptismal vows of faith, unity, and proclamation. Your pledge empowers us to plan, pray, and thrive together in Christ!

Hello Foyers - 2025! Foyer groups have been formed and an email sent out to those who requested to participate. We have five groups made up of eight to nine people. If you received an email and your name is highlighted, then you are the group leader. Please reach out to your group, let them know who is in your group, and arrange for someone to host the first dinner. The host usually provides the main dish and asks group members to contribute sides, salads and desserts. Before the meal, the groups typically engage in either a prayer, the reading of The Litany of Reconciliation, or the singing of the Doxology. If you missed the sign up sheet and wish to participate, contact Maryann and request to be added to a group.

Wishing you all a wonderful Foyers season! Bon appetit! Maryann Dartnell

Standard Time will be here before you know it! November 2, 2025, at 2:00 A.M.: Clocks are set back 1 hour ("fall back"), gaining an hour. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier than the day before. There will be more light in the morning. Since the time changes at 2:00 A.M., plan to change your clocks before bed on Saturday.

Father Tryggvi's contact information and office hours: Father Tryggvi's email is priest@adventmadisonga.com. He typically holds office hours at the Parish House on Mondays and Tuesdays. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cellphone number at 828-446-7843. For an appointment, please contact the church office at 706-342-4787 and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

**Rota for the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
November 2, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Booker—10:30 A.M. Booker

1st Reading: G. Thompson

2nd Reading: R. Thompson

Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild:

Organ Tech: Simpson

Vestry of the Day: Burriss

**Readings for the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
November 2, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

The Psalm: 119:137-144

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

The Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Parish Prayer List

Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, Jerry Maddoz, Tony McCullar, Jennifer Mize, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathy Schmidt, Emily Sigman, Betty Thomas, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Eric Wiemann, Jay Whitcomb

Birthdays: **3** Tom Eskew, **5** Erik Ramfos, **7** Alex Booker, Sabrina Booker, **9** Patrick Yost, Jeanne Symmes Reid, **10** Richard Simpson, **13** Fr. Dann Brown, **19** Paul Roman, **27** Beverly Abbott

Anniversaries: **5** Kathy and Brian Lehman, **21** Mary and Bob McCauley, **24** Genia and Ray Bennett

Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, Su @ 7:00 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

To learn more about Advent's Pastoral Care ministry, or to request addition of a person to the Prayer List, go to <https://adventmadisonga.com/advent-ministries/>. Use the same link to inquire about weddings, baptisms, or funerals and the use of the Memorial Garden.

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

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News and Newsletters: <https://adventmadisonga.com/news/>

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