



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
November 11, 2025 Newsletter
Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost



Sunday, November 9th was a special day of celebration for Adventors as we participated in the baptismal vows with the children and grandchildren of Patrick and Dianne Yost. Grace (Yost) and Michael Kovar presented Everett Clark Kovar, while Brianna and Zach Yost presented Jameson Michael Yost for the Rites of Holy Baptism. A reception followed at the Farmhouse at Valley Farm.

Sermon Notes: First Things First – Preparing for a Resurrection Life

A full church greeted Fr. Tryggvi this Sunday, and his warm welcome carried a gentle but firm reminder: Christmas is coming, but Thanksgiving comes first. In a culture already setting our minds on thoughts of Santa Claus, he urged us not to skip the sacred rhythm of the Christian year. “Our next three Sundays,” said Tryggvi, “require us to focus on preparation—first things first—so that we may be ready for the Son of God, the Redeemer, the most profound manifestation of God’s limitless love.”

This week’s Gospel (Luke 20:27–38) took us not to Bethlehem but to Jerusalem, into the tense final days of Jesus’ ministry. Here, amid mounting opposition, we encounter the Sadducees—wealthy, Rome-cooperating priests who rejected resurrection, angels, and life after death. Their question about the widow married to seven brothers was no sincere inquiry. It was a trap, a *reductio ad absurdum* meant to expose belief in resurrection as absurd.

Fr. Tryggvi skillfully placed this exchange in context. Jesus has already entered Jerusalem to “Hosannas” (Luke 19). He cleansed the temple, taught daily, and faced a trinity of challenges to his authority. The Chief Priests and Scribes asked, “By what authority do you do these things?” Jesus responded with the Parable of the

Wicked Tenants—foretelling their rejection of God’s son and the transfer of the kingdom to those who bear fruit. The scribes tested him on taxes: “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?” His answer— “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s” —silenced them. Now the Sadducees, with their hypothetical widow, aim to ridicule resurrection itself.

Their question hinges on levirate marriage (Deut. 25:5–6)—a law meant to protect vulnerable widows by ensuring family continuity and economic security. But the Sadducees twist it into a caricature: If she married all seven, whose wife is she in the resurrection?

Jesus does not scold or dismiss. He reframes. “Those who belong to this age marry... but those who are considered worthy of... the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God... For to him all of them are alive.” Fr. Tryggvi highlighted a crucial point: Heaven is not Earth 2.0. The Sadducees imagine eternity as a mere extension of earthly systems—lineage, property, possession. Jesus reveals a transformed reality where death is defeated and relationships are free from mortality’s constraints. Marriage, a gift for this age, gives way to a deeper communion: all are children of the resurrection, equal in God’s living presence.

He then turned to Jesus’ scriptural masterstroke. Quoting Exodus 3:6—“I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”—Jesus notes the present tense. God is not “was” but is their God. To God, the patriarchs are alive. Resurrection is not a future novelty; it is woven into God’s very being. Their conception of God, the language they use, and the imagination they have for possibilities are too small.

Jesus, however, reframes the debate, affirming resurrection while transcending the Sadducees' earthly logic. “What does this ancient war of words say to us today?” Fr. Tryggvi asked. “It reminds us we are resurrection people—believing this life is headed somewhere, and what we do now matters for eternity. For 2,000 years, our ancestors in faith proclaimed this hope; our parents and grandparents baptized us into it. Today, two young couples present their infant sons for baptism. We will welcome them, vowing to sustain their faith through prayer, Eucharist, and the apostles’ teaching; to resist evil, proclaim the Gospel, love our neighbors, and strive for justice, peace, and dignity for all. These baptismal vows are our roadmap to resurrection life.”

Question for Reflection: How can we increase our concept of God? Like the Sadducees, we often reduce eternity to earthly logic. Jesus invites us to wonder: What if God’s future is bigger, freer, more loving than we dare dream?

In Christ+, Kim

Dutton Morehouse, a long-time and beloved member of Church of the Advent, died on Thursday, November 6, 2025. A memorial service will be held at Burge, 44 Jeff Cook Road, Mansfield, on Saturday, November 15th at 1:00 pm. His obituary may be read [HERE \(Dutton Morehouse obituary\)](#). Please keep Dutton’s wife Joyce, family, and friends in your prayers.

Ingathering Sunday is this next Sunday, November 16: At both 8:00 and 10:30 AM services, parishioners will 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.

A parish lunch is served after the 10:30 service. Ham and chicken will be provided. Side dishes and desserts will be needed to complete the meal. Please drop off your side dishes and desserts in the parish house dining room on that Sunday morning.

The Greening of the Church, Saturday, November 29 – Everyone is invited to participate in our annual Greening of the Church for the beginning celebration of the Advent season. We will gather at the church at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 29. All are welcome, no experience necessary, just a good attitude and a willing heart as we bedeck the church windows, Narthex, and Altar with Advent greenery; install the Advent wreath; welcome the Angel Tree; Smilax the Reredos; and generally have a fun and festive time of fellowship.

Rick will provide greenery and berries plundered from local gardens and landscapes, but if you have some materials you would like to contribute, or gloves and a pair of pruning shears to wield, by all means bring them. It is always helpful to have a sense of who and how many might be coming, or if you have questions, holler back at me:

Advent-urously Yours, Rick
treadwellcrown@gmail.com
706-474-8302

Madison Morgan Community Food Pantry: We are fortunate to have the Madison Morgan Community Food Pantry right here in our community. Their mission is to serve our neighbors by providing access to nutritional and essential goods while demonstrating compassion, respect, and love. Their vision is a community where everyone has access to sufficient provisions that allow all to thrive. They will be providing additional food for the holidays. Below is a link to support this wonderful ministry during the holiday and throughout the year.

[Madison-Morgan Community Food Pantry](#)

You can also mail a check to: Madison Morgan County Food Pantry, PO Box 407, Madison, GA 30650

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-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. Crown
1st Reading: Freyer
2nd Reading: K Jackson
Altar Guild: Jackson Lewis-Hawkins-Pike-Hilsman
Flower Guild: Crown
Organ Tech: M Dartnell
Vestry of the Day: Horton

**Readings for the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25
Canticle 9
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13
The Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Parish Prayer List

Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Árni Greer Tryggvason, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, Jennifer Mize, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathy Schmidt, Emily Sigman, Betty Thomas, Etwanda “Tink” Wade, 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, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Father Tryggvi Árnason contact information and office hours: Email - priest@adventmadisonga.com.

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To request an addition to the Prayer List, or to inquire about weddings, baptisms, or funerals and the use of the Memorial Garden, email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com.

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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