



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
April 28, 2026 Newsletter
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

This Sunday - Good Shepherd Sunday, the focus shifts from resurrection appearances to what it means to follow Christ. But rather than centering on the familiar shepherd imagery, I've decided to focus the sermon on the Epistle reading appointed - First Peter that appears to endorse enduring unjust suffering. Such texts can feel troubling, even offensive, especially when they seem to justify harm and could be used to silence those who suffer. It is important to preach on such texts when they appear, at times, for they risk misunderstanding of both Scripture and the God it seeks to reveal.

The key to engaging these passages is context. These words were written to specific people—enslaved members of the early Christian community—offering them dignity and identity in a world that denied both. While the text reflects the realities of its time and does not explicitly condemn slavery, the broader movement

of the Gospel affirms the inherent worth of every human being. Over time, the Church has come to recognize that the spirit of the faith, grounded in love and justice, stands firmly against oppression.

Ultimately and with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, scripture must be read through the lens of the God revealed in Jesus—one who lifts up the vulnerable, embodies compassion, and seeks to liberate rather than harm. Any interpretation that diminishes human dignity falls short of this vision. The call, then, is to read faithfully and thoughtfully the Holy Scriptures, allowing God’s love to guide understanding and action.

Questions for Contemplation:

- *When I encounter difficult or troubling passages in Scripture, how can I engage them honestly while still seeking the deeper truth of God’s love and justice, using the teachings of Jesus as my compass?*
- *In what ways am I called to affirm and protect the dignity of others, especially those who may be vulnerable or marginalized?*

Peace, Tryggvi

Wednesday, May 6, Next “First Wednesday” Drop-in

Host: Betsy Quillin

Address: 863 Harris Street

Join your fellow parishioners and guests in a casual gathering on May 6 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Please bring a appetizer/snack, dessert, or beverage to share, and feel free to bring a guest.

Athens Master Chorale: “To Her Hands” concert

Saturday, May 2, 7:30 PM

UGA Performing Arts Center, Athens

Justin Han, Conductor



You are invited to join us for a program titled “To Her Hands”, an evening of choral music written entirely by female composers. This program celebrates the diverse voices of women composers, juxtaposing sound

worlds that are both intimate and larger than life. Through soaring melodic lines, rhythmic vitality, and expressive texts, each work invites us into moments of reflection and connection. \$15/ticket. O. J. Booker is singing in this concert. For tickets, click here: <https://pac.uga.edu/event/athens-master-chorale-spring-concert-in-her-hands/>

Athens Choral Festival: "Elijah" concert
Saturday, May 30, 8:00 PM
Hugh Hodgson Concert Hall, Athens
Joseph Napoli, Conductor



 **HUGH HODGSON CONCERT HALL**
ATHENS, GEORGIA

 **UGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**
706-542-4400

\$15.00 ADULTS
\$7.50 STUDENTS & CHILDREN

Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah (1846) is a dramatic oratorio depicting the life of the Old Testament prophet Elijah, based on 1 Kings and 2 Kings. It tells the story of his battle against pagan worship, miraculous feats, persecution by Queen Jezebel, and ultimate ascension to heaven in a fiery chariot. The role of Elijah is sung by Jeremy Galyon, a wonderful bass who sang with us at Carnegie Hall in 2024. He has sung many concerts there and sings at several opera companies in the U.S. including the Metropolitan Opera in New York. We have 56 singers coming from eight states to perform this concert. It would be nice to have a contingent from Advent Church in attendance that night. O. J. Booker is singing in this concert. —Joe Napoli

**Rota for Fifth Sunday after Easter
May 3, 2026**

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

1st Reading: M Dartnell

2nd Reading: D Dartnell

Altar Guild: Abbott- McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: K Jackson

Vestry of the Day: D Dartnell

**Readings for Fifth Sunday after Easter
May 3, 2026**

[Link to Readings](#)

1st Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Parish Prayer List

Flossie Dodge, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Kathie Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Beth Tamplin Jones, Fr. Dann Brown, Jay Whitcomb, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jack Leo, Eric Wiemann, Susan Crosher, Gloria Leo, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Robert Boswell, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Marcy Lay, Monterey Powers, June Harrell, Wayne Tankersley, Penny Lyle, Bobbie Rushing, Charlie Hawkins

April Birthdays: **1** Kate Jackson, **11** Marsha Schmalhorst, **13** George Hunter Hilliard, **20** Mary McCauley, Martha Harrell, **24** Will Eskew, **30** Sam Easton

April Anniversaries: **18** Alicia and Erik Ramfos

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

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, [click this link!](#)

Pastoral Care Requests: email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com for:

- Additions to the Prayer List
- Inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals
- Use of the Memorial Garden
- Requesting Eucharistic visits
- Short-term meals following surgery or during illness

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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