



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
April 7, 2026 Newsletter
Easter Sunday



Easter Vigil. Picture compliments of Richard Simpson.

Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

The Easter story of the Resurrection, like the Nativity, is often remembered as a single, unified account, even though each of the Gospels tell it differently. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John offer unique details—earthquakes, angels, and varying witnesses—yet all proclaim the same astonishing truth: the tomb is empty. Despite differences, the heart of Easter remains unchanged. The women arrive in grief and leave in awe and joy, carrying the message that Jesus has been raised and goes ahead of them, just as in his earthly life.

The deeper significance of Easter is not simply that resurrection is possible, but that Jesus is the one God raised. In doing so, God affirms Jesus's life—his compassion, nonviolence, and unwavering love—as the true image of what humanity is meant to be. The resurrection is God's declaration: "This is the one." Jesus reveals the fullness of God's intention for us, echoing God's intention as revealed in the second creation story of Genesis - "let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness ..." [Gen. 1:26], embodying a life free from cruelty, grounded in mercy and truth.

Yet even now, 2000 years after Jesus's Resurrection, we struggle to see his risen life at work around us. Like Helen Keller observed, sight is often underused; we focus on despair rather than hope. Easter invites us to see differently—to resist cynicism and rediscover joy. The Resurrection on Easter is not a one-day event that ends after today. Death ends today. The new life in the Resurrection begins today and is an ongoing journey. Death's power ends, and new life begins, as we follow Christ and become active participants in his living body that is and continues to be alive.

Questions for Contemplation:

Where might we be overlooking signs of the resurrection and new life because of our eyes and minds fixed on discouragement and negativity?

How is God inviting us - not just today and this week, but daily - into the ongoing journey of living as part of Christ's risen body?

Peace, Tryggvi+

Dr. Bill Rushing service, Saturday, April 11

A Service of Celebration of Life for Dr. Francis Willard "Bill" Rushing, Ph.D. is this **Saturday, April 11 at 11:00** a.m. in the Church. A reception will follow at Madison-Morgan Cultural Center at 12:30 p.m.

**Athens Chamber Singers: Concert of Manx Folksongs arranged for choir & harp
Sunday April 19, 2026, 4:00 PM in the church**

For many years Advent has enjoyed the annual visit of the Athens Chamber Singers to join with our Advent service of Lessons and Carols. This May, the Singers will be taking a choir tour of the Isle of Man, a small Celtic nation in the Irish Sea. Their repertoire consists of Manx folksongs arranged for choir & harp by director Kevin Kelly. We are very fortunate to hear their concert first hand before they depart! The concert at Church of the Advent will be a preview of their tour music. The concert is free but donations towards travel expenses will be gladly accepted. More information at <https://www.athenschambersingers.org/>

**Rota for Second Sunday after Easter
April 12, 2026**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. Soman

1st Reading: G Thompson

2nd Reading: R Thompson

Altar Guild: Abbott- Strickland-Yost

Flower Guild: Branch

Organ Tech: Jackson-Lewis

Vestry of the Day: Sigman

**Readings for Second Sunday after Easter
April 12, 2026**

[Link to Readings](#)

1st Reading: Acts 2:14A, 22-32

Psalms 16

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Parish Prayer List

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

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

338 Academy Street • Madison, Georgia 30650 • 706-342-4787

www.adventmadisonga.com • adventmadison@bellsouth.net

Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

Newsletter editors: Kim Jackson and O. J. Booker

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

Contact: info@adventmadisonga.com

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