

# The Anglican Way

*Biblical Preaching & Teaching\*Sacramental Worship\*Orthodox Faith & Catholic Order\*Traditional Christian Morals\*Evangelical Zeal to bring the world to Christ  
\*New Life in the Holy Spirit\*Outreach to Those in Need*

## The Church of the Advent, Southern Pines, NC

*(A small, but growing church with a BIG witness for Jesus Christ and His holy Gospel)*

DECEMBER 2022 EDITION

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**Topic:** The Incarnation: *“In the beginning was the Word [the eternal Son of God the Father], and the Word [the Son] was with God [the Father], and the Word [the Son] was God [with the Father and the Holy Spirit]. He was in the beginning with God [the Father]. All things were made through him [the Son], and without him [the Son] was not any thing made that was made. In him [the Son] was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...And the Word [the Son] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:1-5, 14).

**From the Holy Scriptures:** *“He [Jesus Christ, the Son of God] is the image [i.e., icon] of the invisible God [the Father], the firstborn of all creation [i.e., begotten of the Father from all eternity and having the place of the first born son over all creation]. For by him [the Son] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities [four of the nine choirs of angelic beings]—all things were created through him [the Son] and for him [to His honour and glory]. And he [the Son] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead [a reference to the Resurrection], that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him [the Son] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross”* (Colossians 1:15-20). Thus, it was no ordinary man who died upon the cross, but the eternal and only-begotten Son of God for the sins of the whole world; see 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 2:1-2.

**From the Church Fathers:** *“Jesus became what we are [i.e., fully human apart from sin] that He might make us what He is”* [i.e., Sons of the Most High God by adoption and grace and we who are in Christ Jesus are, even now, partakers of the divine nature by sharing in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament (see 2 Peter 1:2-4). The above quote is from St. Athanasius, 4<sup>th</sup> Century, A.D.

**From The Book of Common Prayer (2019):** *“Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.”* (2019 BCP, Collect for Christmas Day).

**Teaching:** Jesus Christ is Emmanuel – that is, “*God with us.*” “*The Incarnation is the coming in time of the timeless Son of God.*” God, in the person of Jesus Christ took on our human nature (apart from sin) being conceived of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Thus, the womb of Mary is the meeting place, foreshadowed in the Old Testament in the Tent of Meeting and Tabernacle, between God the Creator and His creation, the eternal and the temporal, the infinite and the finite, heaven and earth; her womb is the first Tabernacle of God Incarnate. “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt [i.e., “tented” or “tabernacled”] among us...*” (John 1:14a). Mary is the door through whom God Himself entered the world to conquer the dominion of darkness, sin and death and to set us free. During the Seasons of Christmas (from sundown on December 24 through sundown on January 5 – also known as 12<sup>th</sup> Night) and Epiphany (from sundown on January 5 through The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple on February 2) we celebrate and participate in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament; we are truly partakers in God’s story of salvation. “*Although worship dramatizes an event that happened long ago, it brings that event into the present [Greek, anamnesis] by the power of the Holy Spirit. In each worship experience, I am present in the actual event... On Christmas I am present at the birth of Christ; on Epiphany I am there at the presentation of Christ; on Maundy Thursday I am present at the Last Supper; on Good Friday I am taken to the cross and put into the tomb; on Easter I stand at the empty tomb; and on Pentecost Sunday I receive the Holy Spirit.*” Robert E. Webber, (Worship Is a Verb: Celebrating God's Mighty Deeds of Salvation Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992), 119-120. Thus, Christian worship – in Word and Sacrament - is no ordinary thing, for it is participation in the life of the triune God, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, and God’s story of salvation; from the first moment of creation to the Second Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory at the end of time! My friends this ancient, biblical, and patristic (i.e., early Church) understanding of Christian worship has in many ways been lost in contemporary Christian worship; especially in the west. Worship is not only a coming together of like-minded Christians to thank God for His many blessings, but is a participation in the Divine Mysteries and life of God. When we worship God in the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist – in Word and Sacrament – we join the one eternal worship of God before His heavenly Throne, are united with the Church throughout the world, throughout time, in heavenly places and on earth.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**(UPDATE/IMPORTANT) Pre-Christmas Open House at The McKinnon Home Cancelled:** There are 30 homes on Fr. Michael and Christine’s Street (37 Princess Gate Drive, Whispering Pines). We have reached out to every home with a gift bag. We were hoping to offer an open house this Saturday. Alas, due to Christine’s dad’s struggle with the final stages of cancer, she has been back and forth between our NC home and her parent’s home in VA. Thus, we were not able to send out the invitations to our neighbors or prepare the house for this special event. Thus, we are sorry to say that this evangelical holiday event is cancelled.

**(NEW) Lectors:** Reading the Word of God within the liturgy, the worship of the Church, is a special ministry. There is power in the Word of God, especially when proclaimed within the gathering (Gr: ecclesia) and fellowship (Gr: koinonia) of the Church. “*...Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching*” (1 Timothy 4:13). Also, “*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God*” (Colossians 3:16). I am blessed to say that we have our first volunteer to serve as a Lector. If you believe you may be called by God to serve as a Lector, please let Fr. Michael know by calling him at 910-585-4305 or emailing him at Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com. Thank you!

**(NEW) Altar Servers:** Serving in the Sanctuary of our Lord and around His Altar/Holy Table is a calling and an honour. Children (age 7 and above), young adults, and adults are welcome to serve as Altar Servers; we need a thurifer (for very special occasions), a boat-bearer (on such special occasions), a cross-

bearer, two torch-bearers, an icon-bearer (on special occasions), and a second Cross-bearer (on special occasions) and others to take turns serving in God's Sanctuary. If you believe you may be called to serve our Lord in His Sanctuary, please let Fr. Michael know by calling him at 910-585-4305 or emailing him at [Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com). Thank you!

**(NEW) Happy New Year:** The First Sunday in Advent begins the Christian liturgical New Year. We are invited anew, through Word and Sacrament, to journey with Christ Jesus and to participate in His Incarnation: His Conception, Birth, Ministry, Passion/Suffering, Atoning Death and eternal Victory, Descent into Hades, Resurrection, Ascension, and His Coming again in Glory! You too are being invited, initially or anew to join in the journey; God's story of salvation. In the time of Jesus, the Jewish people understood that they were participants in the great events of God's story of salvation through worship. This is known in Greek as, "*Anamnesis*;" i.e., the events of salvation history, past and future, break into the present becoming, by the Holy Spirit, a present reality for the worshipping community. When Jesus said, "This is my Body...This is my Blood...Do this in *remembrance* (Gr: *anamnesis*) of me." The Greek word for "remembrance" implies that the Consecrated Bread and Wine are a participation in the spiritual Body and Blood of Christ Jesus! The historic Church has embraced this truth in every generation, from the Apostolic Age to the present day.

**(NEW) Christmas Eve (5:00 p.m.):** Due to our size, we will be offering only one Worship Service in honour of the First Day of Christmas. The Worship Service will take place on **Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.** I hope you will join us as we welcome anew our Lord Jesus Christ, joining our voices to those of the angels and the Church in every age in thanking God for His coming into the world "*for us and for our salvation.*" God has not abandoned us to the consequence of our sin, i.e., suffering and death, but has come to unite us to Himself and to deliver us from the dominion of darkness, sin, and death (see Colossians 1:13).

**(NEW) Tithing/Pledging:** The bible calls us to tithe toward the building up of the Kingdom of God (or to move toward tithing to the very best of their ability). Our Province, The Anglican Church in North America, calls upon her members to tithe to the local church, for the local church to tithe to the Province, and the Province to tithe to GAFCON; the orthodox/biblical fellowship of Christians within the Anglican Communion. God knows that tithing will produce fruit 100-fold and will lead to local churches, dioceses, provinces, and the greater Church throughout the world reaching all people with the Good News, i.e., the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the salvation of many. God says, "*Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse...And thereby put me to the test...if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need*" (Malachi 3:8 – 10). Please prayerfully consider these words in the biblical passage above and consider pledging and tithing, or more moving toward tithing over time. Pledge cards will soon be available. Please help to support our new church plant. Together, we can make a difference.

**(PLEASE REMEMBER) St. Andrew's Day (Bring a Friend Sunday – December 4):** St. Andrew was the first of the Twelve Apostles to be called by Jesus to follow Him (see John 1:35 ff and Matthew 4:18-20). When Jesus says to Andrew, "*Come and see...*," Andrew immediately shares "*his testimony*" with his brother Peter. Peter not only becomes one of the Twelve, but was counted among the inner circle of the Apostolic leadership (i.e., Peter, James, and John), and was eventually regarded as the Chief of the Apostles. Thus, we are designating the first Sunday following the Feast of St. Andrew, **Sunday, December 4**, as "BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY." Please pray regarding who the Lord wants you to invite, pray for their hearts to be opened to your/the Lord's invitation, and then invite them to join you and to, "*Come and see.*"

**(UPDATE) Special Advent Music Offering:** Local high school students, led by our own Kat Hardin, will offer special music in honour of the third Sunday of Advent. More details to come this Sunday... Please join us and encourage the younger members of our church and our visitors from Union Pines High School who are taking time to offer us something special during the Season of Advent.

**(UPDATE) New Hymnals (the very best of traditional and contemporary music):** While we have been blessed with a number of 1940 Hymnals, this classic hymnal is missing some traditional hymns such as, *“Amazing Grace,”* and *“Lift High the Cross,”* and of course, the very best of post 1940 hymnody and more recent contemporary songs of praise such as, *“In Christ Alone.”* Thus, I have ordered our church family 20 copies of *“Magnify the Lord,”* a new Anglican Hymnal recommended by our Province for use in ACNA churches. This new hymnal offers the very best of traditional Christian hymnody and newer contemporary hymns and songs of praise. The official Hymnal of the ACNA will be published sometime in 2023. At that time we will purchase the new hymnals.

**(UPDATE/IMPORTANT) Holiday Fellowship with and Thank You to Pastor Frank and the Church Board (Saturday, January 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m.):** We are very grateful to Pastor Frank and the Church Board of Our Saviour Lutheran Church for opening their doors and hearts to us and for allowing us to rent space from them. When we were desperate to find a place to worship the Lord on Sundays, they extended the hand of fellowship. Thus, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, Fr. Michael and Christine will open their home for Holiday Fellowship as a thank you to the leadership of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Members and friends of our church family are welcome to join in the fellowship and even to bring along some goodies to share.

**(NEW) A Chance to Share the Gospel:** Fr. Michael is pleased to say that we will be ordering several copies of The Gospel of Jesus according to St. John in booklet form. **1)** We will place a Gospel booklet in every visitor gift bag; **2)** We will place a copy in every gift bag given out on future prayer walks (we will be focusing our future prayer walks on newcomers to Moore County; and **3)** Each member, who is willing to participate, will be given copies of Gospel booklet to share with those whom God places on your daily path. Regarding the latter, please pray for God to present you with opportunities to share this Gospel booklet. Lastly, these Gospel booklets are free, the cost covered by an anonymous donor (God be praised), and we can also place a two or three paragraph description of our church plant and an invitation for persons to join us.

**(UPDATED) Weekly Fixed Schedule for The Church of the Advent:**

- Sunday:** **11:30 a.m.** Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (with a mixture of traditional hymnody and the best of contemporary Christian music)  
**PLEASE NOTE:** We hope to begin offering both Adult and Children’s Christian Education on the Lord’s Day prior to our celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- Monday:** **Fr. Michael’s Day Off**
- Tuesday:** **2:00 p.m.** Fr. Michael teaches Christian Apologetics at All Saints’ Christian Academy, Cameron.
- Wednesday:** Fr. Michael, Fire Chaplain, to visit the Southern Pines Fire Department (Stations 1 & 2) at different times throughout the week.
- Thursday:** **8:30 a.m.** Fr. Michael volunteers at the Southern Pines Food Pantry helping to pack meals for local students in need. Please consider joining Fr. Michael. It is an opportunity for our church family to be a presence in the greater community and to share the Good News of Jesus.  
**10:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer offered in our Chapel located at 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines (meeting at Our Saviour Lutheran Church). **PLEASE NOTE:** Fr. Michael is considering offering a Bible Study following Morning Prayer in our



Chapel. If you are interested in participating, please let him know and please also invite a family member, friend, or neighbor to join you.

**2:00 p.m.** Fr. Michael teaches Christian Apologetics at All Saints' Christian Academy, Cameron.

**Friday: 11:45 a.m.** Fr. Michael participates in the Southern Pines Rotary Club; lunch and meeting.

**Saturday: Fr. Michael's Day Off**

**(UPDATED) Traditional and Contemporary Eucharistic Worship (FYI):** The Church of the Advent seeks to offer Divine Worship in the Great Tradition; i.e., worship that is evangelical, sacramental, and Spirit-filled. We are called to worship God, *"in the beauty of holiness,"* (see 1 Chronicles 16:29) and understand worship as our father Jacob articulates it in Genesis 28:16b, 17, *"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."* Divine Worship is the meeting place between God and man. Please note that once we experience growth in numbers, we hope to offer two Services; both a contemporary form of Eucharistic Worship (i.e., with contemporary music, language, etc.) and a traditional form of Eucharistic worship (i.e., with traditional hymnody, language, asperges, incense, etc). In the meantime, we will offer Prayer Book worship (in contemporary language) with a blend of traditional and contemporary music and liturgical elements. *Until we are able to have two Worship Services, we are trying to be as St. Paul says, "All things to all people." Thus, please hang in there during these early days of our Mission. Together, we can make a difference for the Kingdom!*

#### **(UPDATED) THE LORD'S DAY AT THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**

December 4 Second Sunday in Advent

December 11 Third Sunday in Advent (Rose Sunday)/Music offered by Students from Union Pines

December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

**December 24 Christmas Eve (5:00 P.M.)**

January 1 Holy Name of Jesus

#### **(UPDATED) PRINCIPAL HOLY DAYS (AND HONORY MENTIONS) IN DECEMBER**

December 4 St. John of Damascus, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 760

December 6 St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 326 (Yes, this is, "St. Nick.")

**December 21 St. Thomas the Apostle**

**December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas; meaning the "Christ's Mass")**

**December 26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, 1<sup>st</sup> Century**

**December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**December 28 The Holy Innocents of Bethlehem**

*\*Who are these "Heroes of the Christian Faith?" Consider looking them up on line. Be inspired by those who have gone before us in faith!*

#### **Our Clergy:**

- Fr. Michael J. McKinnon, Priest and Pastor, [Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com), 910-585-4305
- Fr. Daniel Hardin, Assisting Priest and Pastor

*THE ADVENTURE IS ONLY BEGINNING!*

*Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour! Share the Good News: Sin and Death need no longer be the final word over us in this world. Life and Salvation in Jesus Christ is now God's final Word in this world! Please see John 3:16-17.*