



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ◊ 3760 Dover Center Road ◊ Westlake ◊ OH ◊ 44145
440-871-6685 ◊ www.adventwestlake.org ◊ advent.church@sbcglobal.net

November 8, 2020 The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

At Advent

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. We will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist with a special service.

Some Things Can't Be Borrowed OR Extra Virgin Oil Matt. 25:1-13 - The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Jesus told a story about a wedding, not from the vantage point of the bridegroom, but of the ten young girls who had been invited to the celebration. Five of them were foolish and short-sighted, and five of them were wise. How was wisdom measured in this parable? It would be their readiness to be a part of the event. All of the young women had oil in their lamps, but five had packed an additional supply.

Weddings in our society are announced for a specific time and place, and if things are late in getting started, the invited guest begins to fidget a bit. As a matter of fact, I am participating in the marriage of my granddaughter this weekend. Things were different in first century Palestine, a wedding could happen anytime within several days. The uncertainty was considered a part of the excitement of the wedding. The bridegroom hoped to catch some of the bridal party napping. Mercifully, just before the big event a messenger was sent through the streets shouting: "Get ready, the bridegroom is on the way." The alert ones in the wedding party would respond, and some others could be left behind.

In 1998, the four time Governor of Alabama George Wallace died, but before he died, he openly admitted that when he stood at the door of the University of Alabama and denied entrance to blacks that he was wrong. He even apologized for that action and became something of a hero for repenting of his intolerance and recanting those views. Yet, when his great moment in history came, he was not prepared and he missed his great opportunity.

Likewise, Charles Colson also repented of his role in the Watergate affair. He later became involved in full time Christian ministry, authored books, and was an advocate of prison reform. His conversion was tremendous. The tragedy will always be that when his great opportunity in history came, he wasn't prepared.

Jesus is telling us in this simple parable of the tragedy of the unprepared life, that we are at all times to be prepared, for no one knows the hour. The best way to get ready for tomorrow, is to be ready today. A time will come when no further preparation is possible. John Lennon said at one point that The Beatles were more popular than Jesus. Not so much anymore.

We need to be prepared. There are rumblings of tectonic shifting taking place nationally as well as worldwide. A time of judgment is according to Matthew 24 is indeed coming. We see breakdowns in biblical standards. People need not be unprepared. Are we prepared; have we packed enough oil?

This week's Gospel is about the time between the first and second coming of Christ. The Virgins represent those who profess to be Christians. They are going out to meet the Bridegroom.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

The cry goes out: "He's here! Go meet him! Let your lamps burn brightly as you go!" This is going to happen some day! Be spiritually awake. Be alive and alert to Jesus today. Use all the means God has given you to know him and love him and trust him. Be filled with the oil of faith and joy and hope.

The Lord Jesus bless you this week!
Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, November 8

8:00 a.m. Holy Service
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, November 9

Tuesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 11

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent
7:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
7:00 p.m. The Praise Community

Thursday, November 12

7:00 p.m. Dar's Happy Hour Zoom Meeting

Sunday, November 15

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Server Schedule Today, November 8

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Lewis Meriam

Lector Lewis Meriam

Prayers of the People Lewis Meriam (Form 5)

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall (11/9)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Next Sunday, November 15

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 6)

Ushers Max Gage & Jim Edwards

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (11/16)

Close Advent Max Gage

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Ed Kwasny	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Stacey Smith
Bob Allen	Karen Zolar	Rose Walker
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Michael Uhrich	Sharon Rice	George Belinsky
Bill & Judy Arkley	Steve Boyce	Shirley Moore
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	
Denise Geyer-Keller		

Friends of Advent

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma	Fr. Richard Lutz
Ken and Jim	Betty Clark
Eliza Jennings residents	
Liz Schilling, friend of JoAnn Beck	
Stella, friend of Bev Cummings	
Tina, friend of Bev Cummings	
Residents of Pinzone Tower	
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthea Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	

Safety Protection

David Arkley, Detective for Cleveland Police
Son of Bill & Judy Arkley
Rachel Moffitt, ER Nurse daughter of Bill & Judy Arkley

Please contact the church office if you would like your name added or removed from our list.

Advent Thanks All Veterans



Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained from combat. That's not quite true. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead. Veterans Day honors

ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. November 11 of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free.

More News But No Decision from Fr Ben Randall

Rebekah's RN nursing program requires 20 credits of which she'll complete 15 in December in Tennessee. Cuyahoga and Lorain Community Colleges stipulate that 10 must be taken at the degree-granting institution. She would therefore have to repeat a year (10 credits) and pay out-of-state tuition were she to complete her schooling here. Thus, they have decided that coming to Advent in late May is the earliest possible date. Him coming in advance of her and Poppy is not viable for them. We challenged him to innovate ways to launch his new Advent ministry, of his choosing remotely but not in-person, prior to late May. We await his decision as to whether to accept the call to Advent. Please continue the prayers.



A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE DONATED TO THE FISHER HOUSE.

The Fisher House, similar to a Ronald McDonald House, is for military family members to stay free-of-charge while their injured or ill loved one receives treatment, procedures, operations, or rehabilitation. Donations may be made using an envelope for cash (marked Fisher House) or with checks made payable to Advent, and Fisher House on the memo line.

Veterans Today

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life: they are parents, children, grandparents, friends neighbors and co-workers, and are an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the veteran population of the United States:

18.2 million living Veterans served during at least one War as of 2018.

9 percent of Veterans are women.

7 million Veterans served during the Vietnam War.

3 million Veterans have served in support of the War on Terrorism.

Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 496,777 were still alive as of 2018.

Connecticut is home to the highest percentage of World War II Veterans as of 2018 at 7.1 percent.

2 million Veterans served during the Korean War.

As of 2017, the top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans were Alaska, Maine and Montana, respectively.



Advent Wreath – Readers Needed

Those who are interested in participating in the Lighting of the Advent Wreath with short readings the Sundays of Advent (November 29, December 6, 13, & 20) should please leave a note with your name and preferred Sunday on JoAnn's desk in the folder marked "Please leave notes for JoAnn here."

Christmas Poinsettias

Order forms for poinsettias are included in the bulletin today. The poinsettias will adorn the altar for the Christmas services. The cost of each plant is \$10.00.

If you wish to purchase and donate a plant in memory or honor of a loved one, or in thanksgiving, please fully complete an order form (please print legibly), and put it in the offering plate, with cash or a check made payable to Advent and Poinsettias on the memo line.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 29.



Stewardship

All of us look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving in a couple of weeks. With that in mind, please prayerfully consider your blessings and complete the stewardship card previously mailed (or ask the Ushers for one.) We ask that you return the card on or before November 22. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the Lord's work at Advent.

Stewardship Corner

The Apostle Paul continually throughout his New Testament letters encourages people to express their gratitude and thanks to God for who God is, and what He has done for us through Jesus. One way that we express our gratitude is to give thanks throughout the day. When we see life and its blessings as gifts, we are prepared to offer our thanks. Our thanksgiving is demonstrated when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to His Word. God hears and sees our gratitude through the lives we live. When we generously share our time and money with others in Christian love, we show our thanksgiving for our gifts. Our giving reflects Christ's love in us. As stewards, we find that gratitude to God opens our hearts to receive more of God's love which enables us, in turn, to be more faithful with our time, talents, and treasure. In response to God's love and grace, we give of ourselves and our resources.