



# ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ◇ 3760 Dover Center Road ◇ Westlake ◇ OH ◇ 44145  
440-871-6685 ◇ [www.adventwestlake.org](http://www.adventwestlake.org) ◇ [advent.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:advent.church@sbcglobal.net)

**January 31, 2021 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

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

## **At Advent**

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

## **The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

### **Mark 1:22-28 What is This New Teaching!**

When the congregation heard and saw the effect of Jesus' teaching on that long ago Sabbath morning in Capernaum, they were absolutely in awe. When He spoke, things happened. First they saw the impact His Words had on a member of their fellowship and even more, they experienced the impact on themselves of His teaching.

We are living in a season when the term "cancel culture" is very prominent. At its very core, this movement seeks to undermine the Christian foundations of our society. The worshippers in Capernaum knew something was quite different that morning when Jesus came into the room.

What we believe, as Jesus Followers, is also quite different from the concept that is prevalent today that any truth that I hold to be valid for me is as valid as any other truth, or that any personal value has as much foundation behind it as any other value. Biblically that is absolutely not a valid conclusion.

In this time of transition and shifting foundations in the lives of many folks in our world, if we are going to be effective witnesses, it is essential that we know what we believe and why. It all comes down to understanding our own Biblical worldview and core convictions.

What we believe about ourselves, about God, and about the way life works, makes a direct impact on our decisions every day. Our worldviews shape the objective events we encounter into subjective experiences. Think about that for a moment....

Convictions require you to decide what's right ahead of time. It is so important that we know what we believe before we have to make a decision in the heat of a moment or in an unexpected confrontation. Our convictions are not based on what feels good or seems right in that moment. They are instead, the unmovable foundation upon which our lives are built. We don't need to be insensitive or judgmental when we share them with others, but we do need to be sure of what our beliefs, values and moral convictions actually are. They provide a starting point for what we think and feel about the decisions we make, the actions we take. They shape every aspect of our lives.

***Romans 12:1-2 (TPT)*** *Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship. <sup>2</sup>Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.*

When we surrender ourselves to God in all things and acknowledge His headship we don't question Him even when the culture does. This is security that no government can provide. When we decide that He is the foundation of who we are and what we believe, it gives us a clarity of focus and understanding in spite of what we see unfolding around us from day to day. The Lord Jesus bless you this week as you seek to follow Him in all that you do and say!

Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

## This Week at Advent

**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM**  
**10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting via ZOOM**

**Monday, February 1**

**Tuesday, February 2**

**Wednesday, February 3**

**7:00 a.m.** Men's Bible Study at Advent  
**9:00 a.m.** Wednesday Morning Prayer Group  
**7:00 p.m.** The Praise Community

**Thursday, February 4**

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

**Sunday, February 7**

**9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM**

### Zoom Invitation

This is a recurring invitation for worship services at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. You can use the same link, Meeting ID, and Passcode Sunday after Sunday. This way, the link won't change week by week. You can launch the link either from this transmittal or a separate email I'll send, which should overcome the difficulties some have experienced recently.

Peace be with you!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFhZVhnbGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,93790207331#,,,,\*988930# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,93790207331#,,,,\*988930# US (New

York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adIAxI5aCt>

## Prayer Request

### Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Ed Kwasny	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Stacey Smith
Bob Allen	Karen Zolar	Shirley Moore
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Michael Uhrich	Sharon Rice	George Belinsky
Bill & Judy Arkley	Steve Boyce	Sue Boyce
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	Roger Luptak
John & Anne Crothall		Bev Cummings

### 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 Cynthia Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	
Marie Archer	

### 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.*

## Directory Update

Please update your directory:

**Barbara and Max Gage**

**4234 W 215th St**

**Fairview Park, OH 44126**

## 2020 Financial Statements

2020 Financial Statements have been mailed to members.

Please contact JoAnn in the office (440-871-6685) if you have any questions concerning your statements.

## **Advent Worship Services and Resources Available Online**

We record the Sunday 9:00 AM worship services and upload the video on Monday to Advent's website and Facebook page. We also upload Paul Laursen's Weekly Fasting and Prayer Mailer. We are uploading the Sunday Bulletin and each week's edition of our ADVENTures Newsletter on Thursday before the service on Sunday. Below are the links to them for January 17, 2021. On any future Monday you can go to <https://www.adventwestlake.org/blog/> and access these resources. Of course, we invite you to join us for the live service by Zoom on your PC, tablet or smartphone or via dial-in with any phone using the instructions elsewhere in this edition of ADVENTures.

<https://www.adventwestlake.org/2021/01/18/adventures-newsletter-january-17-2021/>

<https://www.adventwestlake.org/2021/01/18/fasting-prayer-january-17-2021/> and [Facebook](#)

<https://www.adventwestlake.org/2021/01/18/sermon-january-17-2021/> and [Facebook](#)

## **Advent Annual Meeting To Be Held Virtually on January 31, 2021**

Our By-Laws stipulate an annual meeting is to be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January with public notice being given 3 consecutive Sundays preceding it. Given COVID restrictions, we will hold this year's meeting virtually via Zoom on January 31 immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. Agenda items include approval of the 2020 annual meeting minutes, a review of 2020 financials, review and approval of the 2021 budget, election of 3 vestry people, and other pertinent reports and business. Per By-Laws, a minimum of 18 people must attend to vote for vestry. We ask that you join us for this and every 9:00 a.m. worship service and also continue on January 31 for the annual meeting.

For each Sunday service and for the annual meeting, Zoom access is available by PC, iPad or iPhone, and smartphone via the Zoom link;

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFhZVhnVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzOT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

Dial-in is also available using any phone by calling:

312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331#

Participant ID: #

Passcode: 988930#

## **Why Am I An Episcopalian (Anglican)?**

This week I read the FALL/WINTER 2020 edition of SEED & HARVEST published by Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. Trinity is an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition whose desire is to be a global center for Christian formation, producing outstanding leaders who can plant, renew, and grow churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. It has Anglican, Episcopal and Lutheran tracks of study. Fr. Joe Maiocco got his MDiv at Trinity. What spoke to me was "Why an Episcopalian or Anglican?" and "What's different about us from other Protestant denominations and non-denoms?" It's not something I often think about. But our times of theological friction, and tension among believers and our culture, caused me to ponder answers. The Rev. Dr. Leslie P. Fairfield wrote about three different strands, or traditions, that have emerged in the past 500 years in Anglicanism. The Evangelical tradition highlights the Bible, preaching, a personal relationship with Jesus, and conversion. The Anglo-Catholic strand stresses sacraments, the authority of the priesthood, and gradual growth in grace. The Charismatic tradition emphasizes renewal in the Holy Spirit, healing, and signs and wonders. And, it struck me, that's who we are, or are trying to be at Advent. Our history, traditions, former rectors, and practices touch on all 3 strands – sometimes in uplifting and sometimes in jarring ways as we try to balance competing and complementing threads. And why we are trying to be salt and light to competing forces impacting us. To me, that's a good description of who we are and why we strive for what we do at Advent Episcopal Church. I felt uplifted by these realizations.

Dick McCormick