



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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

January 24, 2021 The Third 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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:14-20 Fishers of Men

The baptism and temptation of Jesus marked the birthing of his public ministry. From these events, Mark drives right to Jesus' preaching. He gives us a brief synopsis of Jesus' message, recounting the call of the first disciples, and tells us of their response. The long awaited Messiah has arrived. This was the focal point of the religious heritage of Israel. It is here at last. All of the prophecies of old were being fulfilled in Jesus.

Turning briefly to Luke, we find that early in this ministry in Galilee, Jesus put in an appearance in his hometown. Luke 4:16-21. In his announcement in Nazareth, Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah that prophesied of His coming and he declared, *"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."* The time has come. The opportunity is here. Don't miss it.

In the Old Testament, it was prophesied that there would come a day when Israel would turn to the Lord in repentant faith, and that the Messiah would establish a reign of righteousness and peace throughout the world. This has been the longing of every believer through the centuries.

Christians long for that day, a day of the Lord's rule on earth; a day when society will not be saturated with perversity and courts will administer true justice, and every person will deal graciously with his neighbor. Jesus himself taught us to pray: *"Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be you name. Your kingdom come, your will be done...."*

Jesus proclaimed that they were on the threshold of the kingdom because the king was in their midst. Today, Christ is not *physically* near us, but our message still centers on him. He is the solution to our deepest needs. He calls us still today.

He still offers us forgiveness and a transformed life through faith. He doesn't give us a list of things we must do to earn the right. He doesn't require that we seek to become worthy before He accepts us. He simply requires that we exercise faith, and believe His message. But notice how this is worded: repent and believe.

The two are inseparable. Repentance represents that *from* which you turn and faith represents that *to* which you turn. When you trust Him, you will stop trusting yourself. When you follow Him, you will stop following the world. Therefore, we call this repentant faith.

The faith that brings us to Christ is a faith that changes our lives.

Jesus issued the call and the four men responded. I want you consider how they responded. They responded immediately, at once, without delay. Jesus did not say, "think about this and let me know." No! The king said, "Come." And they came. They responded completely. They left nets. They left family. They left businesses. They withheld nothing.

Jesus brought good news, a life changing message. We are living through sometimes bewildering times, in which the Kingdom that is coming, is not fully here yet. In spite of that, He still calls you and I to follow Him, not knowing all that is implied in that invitation. What will you do with it? What are you doing with it? The Lord bless you this week as you seek to follow and serve Him in every part of your life.

Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, January 24, 2021

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, January 25

Tuesday, January 26

Wednesday, January 27

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, January 28

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

Sunday, January 31

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting 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=NWFXZVhmVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

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
Liz Urbas	Richard Ward	Lewis Meriam

Friends of Advent

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma Ken and Jim	Fr. Richard Lutz 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 3rd or 4th 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=NWFhZVhVdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzOT09>

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