



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ◊ 3760 Dover Center Road ◊ Westlake ◊ OH ◊ 44145

March 29, 2020 ◊ The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preaching this Morning at Advent

All services at Advent are suspended until further notice.

Advent Office Hours

You may call the church office (440-871-6685) and expect to have your call answered between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. If you call outside of those hours, please leave a message and we will respond as soon as we receive it. In case of emergency, please contact Dick McCormick (440-413-0189) directly.

Pastor Laursen's Message for this Sunday

God's amazing creativity is seen in the natural world. For example, there are over 25,000 varieties of orchids. The orchid is just one of 270,000 species of flowers. In our galaxy there are over 100 billion stars like our sun. Our galaxy is one of over 100 billion galaxies. It is thought that for every grain of sand there are a million stars.

In His three years of ministry, Jesus demonstrated that He was very God of very God as one of our creeds declares. One impactful way Jesus did this was by raising at least three people from the dead. Yes, at least three times during His ministry on earth Jesus raised someone from the dead: a young man from the city of Nain, Jairus' twelve year old daughter, & Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha. They were incredible signs of His power.

First, in Luke was the young man from Nain. The young man had already died; his body was being carried to the tomb. *Luke 7:11-17*

The young man from Nain was raised from the dead...but he would die again. This was a sign of who Jesus was. The young man was not able to break the chains of death himself, that would take the Messiah.

The second, also in Luke, was the case of a young girl who had just passed away. *Luke 8:40-42, 49-56.*

The young girl, Jairus' daughter, was also raised from the dead...but she would die again because, like the young man from Nain, she could not break the chains of death herself.

The third case was Lazarus, a close friend. *John 11:1-11, 17-44*

In the case of Lazarus, death seemed to have completely won the day, until Jesus came and demonstrated that He had power to "bind the strong man", the strong man being Satan, and to rob him of his goods. Lazarus had been dead for four long days. Decay had already set in.

It is fascinating that when Lazarus came forth, he was still completely bound up in his burial cloths. It took his friends to get free. This is an illustration of the need for fellowship among believers; we need each other. After we come to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we need the support of other mature believers to come into the fullness of what it means to follow Jesus!

Lazarus was raised from the dead...but he would die again. Like the young man from Nain and Jairus' daughter, he could not break the chains of death. He was not the Messiah.

Jesus' power over death reminds us that as we trust in Him, we have ultimate security no matter what is happening around us. **Ohio** may be locked down because of the coronavirus but we are free in Him. Whatever finally comes out of **Washington** to deal with this crisis is not our source of provision; the Lord who created 270,000 types of flowers can create out of nothing what we need. When we face **the end of our life on earth**, we will have the assurance of the young man from Nain, the daughter of Jairus, of Lazarus, and finally the testimony of Jesus' own victory over death on Resurrection Sunday that our future is secure in Him!

The Lord Jesus bless you this week!

Pastor Paul

This Week at Advent

Sunday, March 29

8:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal: **Suspended**
Bible Study: **Suspended**
10:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED

Wednesday, April 1

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

Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal: **Suspended**

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal: **Suspended**
Bible Study: **Suspended**
10:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED

Lenten Reflection – From The Rev. Lisa O’Rear, Rector, St. Andrew, Mentor

So many worries, so little time. Do you feel it too? I have to admit that I entered this Lenten season with more than a modicum of fear and trembling. There’s trouble in the world, in Isaiah and in us. How can I walk with Jesus to Jerusalem when I feel weighted down in high water? I don’t need to quantify this, do I? You know what I mean. You feel the pull and suck of that fateful tide.

This week’s scripture passage from Isaiah is a lifeline for the beloved of God in times of trouble.

In it, God reminds us that we never walk alone, in high water or a desert, or down the streets where we live. God’s Anointed One, Jesus, shoulders our burdens even as we stumble beside him, too weighted down by fear and grief to carry the load. Jesus leads us to Jerusalem and beyond, through death to resurrection and into the bright light of eternity he so kindly shares with us now and forever.

But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior

Isaiah 43:1-3a NIV

What to do about our normal giving to Advent?

These are extraordinary times we are living through – and we will get through them! Some have lost wages and salaries. All are experiencing hardship, fear of health issues, social isolation and perhaps loneliness. So, it is with mixed feelings that I ask you to fulfill, as best you are able, your normal giving to Advent. We are paying our people even though we are not open for services – we believe that is the right thing to do. Please mail your checks to JoAnn at the office or use whatever other means to contribute normally. If your finances allow it, please consider forward-paying some portion of your pledge to cushion the shortfall we will experience from others not being able to keep up financially. Please pray about what the Lord lays on your heart and respond according to His will. Thank you.

Dick McCormick and Ray Busony

One parishioner’s reaction to Bishop Love worshipping with us at Advent

The Sunday that Bishop Love visited to officiate at Advent was after the community spread of coronavirus had already begun in Ohio. It was only because I had been scheduled as lector weeks ago when it was still apparently safe to congregate, that I reluctantly attended on March 15. But it was duty rather than bishop that drew me. So I grumpily turned up and maintained social distance.

What happened next was truly unexpected. As Bill Love led us in worship—and I refer to him as Bill because to me he is a man of God clothed in the humility of a servant and the sacrificial love of a shepherd—my spirit was calmed and thrilled by the Holy Spirit. The entire service moved me, and my gratitude transcended the danger of congregating during this epidemic. We tiny flock at Advent were blessed mightily by this man of God worshipping with us. John Crothall

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Dave Luptak	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Velta Sanborn
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

Friends of Advent

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma	Ken and Jim
Eliza Jennings residents	Jack Morgan
Trevor, grandson of Art Beel	Richard Ward, Jr
Liz Schilling, friend of JoAnn Beck	Fr. Richard Lutz

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.