



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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April 5, 2020 Have a Blessed Palm Sunday!

Worship with Bishop Love at <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/contact-us/>

At Advent

All services at Advent are suspended until further notice. 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.

WOW! You Heard Our Appeal! You Heard the Holy Spirit!

During these uncertain times, it is humbling to know that so many of you continue to make your financial support a priority for the Lord's work at Advent. Those who are able have given sacrificially over and above their normal weekly amounts. The good people we employ at Advent thank you. The Vestry thanks you. The Lord thanks you!

Palm Sunday Message

Palm Sunday begins the incredible final week of Jesus life and His journey toward the Cross. Jesus had been moving toward Jerusalem from Galilee. It was an exciting time; the city was ringed with tents. The population had mushroomed to three times its normal size! The crowd on that day we call Palm Sunday, certainly was not concerned about social distancing as we are today.

Enthusiasm about Jesus was growing among people who had seen the miracles, been fed, healed, and delivered from demons. Now they are ready for the final victory! The crowds are hailing Him as the long awaited Messiah. Jesus doesn't stop them. He says that if the people weren't declaring that truth, then the rocks themselves would cry out.

Matthew 21:10 (NCV) When Jesus entered Jerusalem, all the city was filled with excitement. The people asked, "Who is this man?"

Luke 19:41-42 (NCV) As Jesus came near Jerusalem, he saw the city and cried for it, ⁴² saying, "I wish you knew today what would bring you peace. But now it is hidden from you.

Jesus came into the culture of Rome and Israel in ways that were not understood by most of the people of His day. The palm branches that were spread were looking toward something that was quite different from the Kingdom that Jesus was establishing. Many wanted a restoration of the kingdom of Solomon, that was not the throne upon which Jesus would ascend.

He came to turn the world right side up. He was perceived as a threat to many religious leaders even though He came to die for the sins of all. As we reflect on where we are in this day of a worldwide epidemic, we can be an example of hope and redemption to many who are feeling vulnerable. Our Kingdom values are not the values of many in our day. At times we can be seen as a judgmental threat to some and irrelevant to others.

Do we see through God's eyes or through the distorted eyes of the world? *1 Chron.12:32 "the men of Issachar...understood the times & knew what Israel should do."* The men of Issachar were part of David's army as they battled Saul. That's the way it often is; only a few understand the changing culture & know what to do. We are a part of God's army today living as ambassadors of the unseen Kingdom.

We have seen the Lord come into our lives as our Redeemer. He has changed everything! Therefore, we can spread our spiritual palm branches before Him because we know who He is and the eternal impact He has made on us now and forever.

Today no matter what we are facing as a nation and what you are confronting as an individual, our Lord is still our Lord and the one who is in control of our lives.

So, as we move toward the dark shadows of Good Friday and then the explosion of life on Resurrection Sunday, I encourage you to indeed rejoice that our Redeemer has come to deliver us from the challenges that are beyond our own ability to overcome. In all circumstances that you and I will ever face, He is the Prince of Peace.

The Lord Jesus bless you abundantly this week!

Pastor Paul

This Week at Advent

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

Wednesday, April 6

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

Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday

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

Greetings From Dick McCormick

Really seems strange (right?) not to go to church on Sundays! A huge void. Yet, there are ways each of us is finding to worship, to find spiritual encouragement, and to remain connected with one another.

For those who worshipped with Bishop Love on March 15, you'll remember what a spiritual highlight that was. John Crothall gave us his impressions in this past week's ADVENTures newsletter. I want to encourage you to bookmark his diocese's Sunday worship on YouTube that Bishop Love pre-records.

<https://albanyepiscopaldioocese.org/contact-us/> I participated this morning in an hour and 15-minute on-line service that was as powerful for me as was the time with him in person! The Holy Spirit is active in his ministry and the worship service touched me deeply – tears a couple of times! The dominant theme in the sermon was *hope* in these times of COVID-19-induced fear and isolation, preached by the rector of the church in Ballston Spa. Music by his worship leader and her two teenagers included: Cornerstone; What Wondrous Love Is This; Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones; Come Alive (Dry Bones); Blessed Be The Name of the Lord; and In Christ Alone. Follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7viIbGsmXY0>

I also ask that you call at least one other parishioner today or tomorrow and just check in. Help us all stay connected. Help that someone overcome her or his feeling of isolation that is real because of the Governor's "stay-at-home" directive and because many of us are in that over-65 vulnerable demographic group requiring distancing. For example, yesterday in speaking with Bruce Sanborn I learned that Velta is home from the hospital but is on hospice. ADVENTures contains names of parishioners seeking prayer. Please pray for them and all who are dealing with the COVID-19.

In Christ Alone, we stand!

Dick

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

Message From Bishop Love

Thank you for sharing John Crothall's very kind and moving testimonial. It sound like the Holy Spirit was very much at work during our time together. I am so thankful for the time I had with you and everyone at Advent Church. I was richly blessed by the strong faith and warm hospitality of everyone in the Parish. I have the beautiful prayer shawl you gave me on my bed in my apartment at Christ the King Center. It has come in very handy during the last several cold nights that we have had. Thank you again for everything. Please know that you and everyone at Advent Church are and continue to be in my prayers. May the Lord watch over and protect you all during these difficult and trying times with the Coronavirus. God Bless!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,
+Bill

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
Laura Lenis, friend of JoAnn Beck	

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.