



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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April 12, 2020 Have a Blessed EASTER!

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

Diocesan Easter Service Available Sunday

Bishop Love works with other clergy from the Diocese to offer a recorded Eucharist for you to watch from the comfort and safety of your own home. This Easter Sunday, please join in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! To access simply go to the Diocesan website,

www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org. You will see a link to take you to the Resources page with not only the recorded service but other resources for you to use at home. Or, you can go to the Diocese's YouTube channel and watch. Previous Sundays are there now. The Easter Sunday video will be uploaded Saturday night. You should be able to reach them at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

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.

Resurrection Sunday 2020 Matthew 28:1-10

The whole of the New Testament revelation rests on the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The empty tomb is central to our faith, so the details that we receive in all four Gospels are foundational. I encourage you this week to read all four powerful accounts.

Resurrection Sunday will be celebrated very differently this year; however, its truth is still the same even though our circumstances are very different in 2020. Hear what the angel said as two women came to complete the preparations for Jesus' burial:

Do Not Be Afraid (v. 5). *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified."*

This is the repeated statement when the Pre-Incarnate Christ and angels on several occasions appeared to amazed and initially frightened people. I have a friend, Dick Adler to whom an angel appeared. Dick was fearful at first until the angel said, "Fear not." Scripture consistently teaches that we do not need to be afraid. In fact, a word study on "fear" will reveal that there is only one we are to fear, God. We are told to "not" fear several things, but we are to fear God. We can appreciate why those women who went to the tomb to finish preparing the body of Jesus for permanent burial would be afraid. All kind of unnatural things had just taken place. Earthquakes, angels sitting on stones, and resurrected people walking around Jerusalem. Resurrection Morning turned the world upside down, but the gracious response of God is, "Don't be afraid."

Come and See (v. 6). *He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.*

Our faith and our future cannot be based on some naive notion that He "might" be alive. Maybe that is why the evidence is so strong. Jesus appears some 13 times, and one of these was to a group of about 500. He did this over a period of 40 days. All theories to explain this away are as unconvincing as the bribed guards' reports about the body being stolen (28:11-15).

Go and Tell (v. 7, 10). *Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."*

Both the angels and Jesus Himself make this request. If Jesus really is alive then the whole world should know. This is what gives substance to the Great Commission in the latter part of the chapter. The resurrection enlarged Jesus' authority. Out of that authority comes the command to go, disciple, baptize, and teach. In it all He promises His presence through the Holy Spirit.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

This Week at Advent



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

Wednesday, April 15

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 19

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 Face Masks to Share

Each of us feels a range of emotions during the stress of COVID-19-induced isolation, upended schedules, fear and uncertainty. Some may seek to blame others for the virus; or condemn _____ for a lack of a proper response to the virus – locally, nationally, and globally; or just dwell on “how bad things are”.

As many of you know, my company (MB Dynamics) does a lot of business in China. We've worked with agents (who are Chinese people not just a company!) for 20 years. We care about one another beyond business dealings. Below is an email I sent them this week expressing our collective thanks for 3000 surgical and N95 masks they sent us. A company of 35 people can't begin to use 3000 masks! So, the email below shows them we are reaching out to those who have a need beyond ourselves at MB. These Chinese unbelievers have unknowingly shared Christ's love with us so we can share them with a wider community during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to the email below, Max Gage is providing masks to Eliza Jennings as part of Advent's nursing home ministry.

Hello Ms. Sui and Jason and Richard,
Thank you again for the 3,000 surgical and N95 masks you gave MB. We have distributed masks to:

- MB employees and their families
- Family members of MB employees who are doctors and nurses treating COVID-19 patients
- Christian churches of MB employees who requested them, many of those receiving masks are over 60 years of age and therefore are high-risk for getting COVID-19
- Nurses and a chaplain supporting people who are dying of COVID-19 and their family members
- Nursing homes affiliated with MB employees (A nursing home is a place for people who don't need to be in a hospital but can't be cared for at home. Most nursing homes have nursing aides and skilled nurses on hand 24 hours a day. Some nursing homes are set up like a hospital. The staff provides medical care, as well as physical, speech and occupational therapy.)

Stations of the Cross – Good Friday

It is a tradition at Advent that we participate responsibly in “Stations of the Cross” on the evening of Good Friday. Not possible this year, obviously. But, Bishop Love's diocesan team has put together something they call “Journey to the Cross”. We invite you to take part. See the intro below with a YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su937PLYx7Y> for the 60-minute meditation.

Meditating on the events of Jesus' final days and his resurrection can be profound. The challenge for most of us is shutting out the noise and distractions of everyday life long enough to quiet our souls and listen to the Spirit of God. You are invited to set aside an hour in your busy life to quiet your soul and participate in this series of 13 meditations that follow Jesus as he makes his way to the Cross. Each reflection includes a period of quiet at the end for you to pray, meditate, journal, draw...whatever your heart leads you to do. Simply hit pause if you need more time or slide ahead if you want to move on. It is our prayer that this experience will draw you closer to Jesus this Holy Week.

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.

- A public housing building for older and disabled people with limited incomes who find it hard to buy masks themselves
The police and fire departments of the city where my church is located

All people receiving your gifts are deeply moved by the generosity of our Chinese friends and your care and concern for the welfare of people here. We will always remember and be thankful for your gifts.

Regards,
Dick