



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ♦ 3760 Dover Center Road ♦ Westlake ♦ OH ♦ 44145
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April 26, 2020 The Third Sunday of Easter

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

Worship with the Diocese of Albany 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 2:00 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.

Luke 24:13-35 (NASB) The Emmaus Road

Luke is the only gospel to include this story that reveals to us not only something about who we are, but how Jesus opens our eyes to see Him for who He is and how we can come to know Him.

The journey to Emmaus is both a literal and a spiritual journey. On one hand it recounts the story of two disciples who, after the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, walk seven miles from Jerusalem to their village of Emmaus. On the other hand, it outlines for us the journey that we all take from not recognizing Jesus, to understanding what the Scripture says about Him, to recognizing Him for who He is, and finally to our giving witness of what we have experienced.

Although the disciples knew who Jesus was, they did not recognize Him on the road to Emmaus. They had heard on many occasions the things Jesus had testified about Himself. Yet, they were not able to recognize Him after His crucifixion and resurrection. They had a preconceived idea of who Jesus was, what He had come to do, and how He should do it. Events did not turn out like they had expected. They wallowed in their confusion, misplaced hope, and trust.

They had heard the reports of the women who went to the tomb, but the supernatural working of God to raise Jesus from the dead was currently outside their paradigm. We must be careful not to make the same mistake: to discount what God has done simply because we cannot explain it or understand it.

The episode on The Emmaus Road took place the same day the women discovered the empty tomb and reported it to the disciples. Prior to His arrest, Jesus traveled up and down the strip of land once ruled by David and Solomon. His followers fully expected that He would become their king and that Israel would again be prosperous and free. But now it appeared that their hopes and dreams had also died.

As the Passover observance was finished, the dejected pair began the seven-mile walk to Emmaus even as impossible stories of resurrection circulated among Jesus' disciples. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. In keeping with ancient rules of hospitality, the two followers invited the "stranger" to stay the night. Once their eyes were opened to the reality of the resurrection, Jesus became visible to their physical eyes. Then just as suddenly Jesus vanished. Their new, resurrected hope carried them back to Jerusalem to bear the good news to others. As in the case of the two disciples, we also need our eyes opened, and like them we need to personally invite Jesus to come in, not just to our home for a meal, but into our hearts. It is only then that we will see Who He really is!

Just because the disciples knew about Jesus does not mean they knew Him. Just because they could see Him does not mean they could see who He was. Many people today know who Jesus is. They have heard about Him, read about Him, and used His name. Many even claim to know Him. They would not recognize Him if they saw Him. Their eyes have not been opened. Knowing about Him and knowing Him are two different things.

Verse 27 says, *"Then beginning with Moses and from all the prophets Jesus interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scripture."* Scripture reveals who Jesus is. The Holy Spirit uses it today to open the eyes of those who do not know Him. Later that day one of the disciples said in verse 32: *"Did not our hearts burn within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"*

That is why it is so important to believe that all of Scripture is God's Word. For if it is untrustworthy at any point then it can be untrustworthy at every point. It is either all God's Word or it is not His Word at all. When you know the Bible, it will build your faith; only through faith can you come to Jesus. The truth of Scripture ABOUT Jesus leads to personal faith IN Jesus.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, April 26

8:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED
10:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED

Wednesday, April 29

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Sunday, May 3

8:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED
10:00 a.m. SERVICE SUSPENDED

When Will Services at Advent Re-start?

Tuesday evening the vestry met virtually (with videos OFF so shaggy dogs and lack of hair salons didn't embarrass everyone!). We were not able to make any timing decisions, as that depends on guidance from Governor DeWine, Presiding Bishop Curry, Bishop Hollingsworth, and our own common sense of what is safe and prudent for Advent parishioners. We did say that the first service would be like an Easter celebration of resurrection of our Lord and renewal of worship for our community; at the first few Sundays we would probably hold only one service; would need to maintain 6 ft. spacing in the sanctuary; would ask people to wear masks and would have masks available for those coming who didn't bring theirs; would let Dar and the choir be creative as to how they bring music back; would have prepackaged communion packets of wafers and juice that Paul would consecrate; passing of the peace would be like when Bishop Love was with us – nods from 6 ft. not handshakes or elbow-bumps; and possibly temperature scans of the forehead upon arrival at Advent. People would make their own decisions about whether they felt safe in coming together for corporate worship and would not come if they were sick or had been in contact with folks who tested positive for COVID-19. When, you ask? We'd love it to be as early as May 10 – Mother's Day – but that's a "hope" today not a "plan" nor a "promise". Let's wait and see how re-opening of the rest of our lives goes. But, we all look forward with hope and anticipation to worshipping together soon!

A Prayer from an Advent Member

Dear Lord,

We come to You as the coronavirus spreads among us. We confess our moments of fear and confusion. Though undeserving, we thank You for Your unconditional love and forgiveness. As we have just relived the season of Your own trial, thank you for being with us. Please empower us by your Spirit to reach out to others, believing that the ultimate victory is Yours.

Please give wisdom and discernment to all leaders – locally, nationally, and internationally to respond to this crisis in accordance with Your will. We pray for all of our families, friends and neighbors – for all those in our community, country and world whom we do not know. Please, Lord, may You comfort all those who have lost loved ones, heal those who are ill; provide for all those who have lost jobs and financial resources. Please protect all first responders who daily face exposure for our sake; and uplift, protect and encourage all those who are physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually stressed, whom only You would know.

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	Fr. Richard Lutz
Trevor, grandson of Art Beel	Richard Ward, Jr
Liz Schilling, friend of JoAnn Beck	
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.



Episcopal Diocese of Albany

Disciples Making Disciples

An Update from Bishop Love

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I received notification earlier today from the Chairman of the Hearing Panel, Bishop Nicholas Knisely, that my Hearing / Trial, will NOT take place this Tuesday (April 21st), as originally scheduled. The Hearing Panel is trying to make arrangements through the Episcopal Church Center, for the Hearing to take place in a virtual online format. They are currently working through the logistical as well as legal requirements for such a meeting to occur. It is my hope and prayer that a new date will be set soon. I will keep you posted once I know more. In the meantime, I greatly appreciate your continued prayers for all involved.

Help us to be prudent yet compassionate; may we be good listeners and encouragers in Your Name and for Your sake. Believing in the power of prayer, we acknowledge You alone are in control and the ultimate source of all our hope. In Jesus Victorious Name we pray.

Amen.

Written by Bev Cummings