



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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May 3, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

I am the Door

John 10:9-10 *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

The sheepfold was central to the flock in Jesus' day. During the day flocks roamed the pasture, but at night they were gathered into a cave or a sheepfold. The sheepfold was an enclosure surrounded by a wall of rocks that was too high for the sheep to jump over. The shepherd at times put thorny branches on the tops of the walls to keep animals or thieves from trying to climb over.

An opening in the wall allowed the sheep to enter and exit. At night, the shepherd lay across that opening and became the door of the sheepfold. No animal could get out and no enemy could get in without going through the shepherd. On the outskirts of some villages there might be a community sheepfold where all the shepherds brought their flocks at night. In the morning, the shepherds would call their sheep, and each flock would follow its shepherd out of the sheepfold. The sheep knew the voice of their own shepherd and would follow nobody else.

Jesus identifying himself as The Door was incredibly impactful. Today we can see our sheepfold as being a place of quarantine or sheltering in place. As we are told to "stay home," the intent is not to deprive us of freedom, but to separate us from that which could harm us or others. Today the coronavirus is insidious because we cannot tell from appearances if another person has it or not. Many may carry the virus without manifesting symptoms, but that does not mean that they are safe.

The new virus can be a physical example of spiritual attacks that occasionally come against us. We need the Jesus The Door to protect us from often unseen attacks that come against us. In the sheepfold, which can be our quiet time as well as our time of sheltering in place, we receive rest and security in spite of what is happening around us. I suggest that you and I use this season of physical isolation to grow in our personal prayer, worship, and meditation. We can come out of this challenging season stronger than before because we are trusting in The Door.

The freedom of the pasture will soon return to our lives, but in this season of sheltering in place, let us use this time to strengthen our trust in our Good Shepherd who guards us from the unseen attacks that seek to come against us.

Psalm 23:4 (NASB) *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

Pastor Paul Laursen

Making An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart

I embrace you as if you are already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen

St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Fifth Ave. New York City, NY.

This Week at Advent

Sunday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 6

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Sunday, May 10 Mother's Day

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

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	Fr. Richard Lutz
Ken and Jim	Richard Ward, Jr
Eliza Jennings residents	
Trevor, grandson of Art Beel	
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.

Speaking of "Random Acts of Kindness"

From the Mayo Clinic: **COVID-19: How much protection do face masks offer?** "Can face masks help prevent the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? Yes, face masks combined with other preventive measures, such as frequent hand-washing and social distancing, help slow the spread of the disease. So why weren't face masks recommended at the start of the pandemic? At that time, experts didn't yet know the extent to which people with COVID-19 could spread the virus before symptoms appeared. Nor was it known that some people have COVID-19 but don't have any symptoms. Both groups can unknowingly spread the virus to others."

What does this have to do with Advent? Well, parishioners have distributed masks to retirement homes, multiple nursing homes in 5 cities, frontline COVID-19 care providers, ER nurses, EMT staff, the Westlake Police and Fire Dept's, hospice workers, 3 churches including a food pantry, and who knows where else 2,000 masks have gone, received from China and Korea. Here's feedback from John Crothall: "I want to reiterate our thanks for the N95s you facilitated from your client in China. The 40 N95s that Scott and I donated between us to Nivalis Hospice Care increased their inventory from zero to 800 person-days of front line safety.

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

Love Reaches Across the United States

Some of us find ourselves feeling isolated, depressed, bored, worried, ruminating, and hopeless. Being confined in our homes can start to feel like being locked up in a prison. But just because we are "shut in" doesn't mean we are "shut off." We think about family members and want to reach out, touch base, and check in with them by phone. Seems so normal. But when the phones don't work, how do you reach out to others and how do others reach out to you?

JoAnn received an email from Teresa Zolar. "My 92 yr old mother, Lois Zolar, is one of your long time parishioners. Is there perhaps someone in your ministry that could check on her at home? I am in CA, my sister Karen is her caregiver there. Their landline died, which is their sole communication device. (I was notified by mail). Although a new phone was delivered. no word. Lois has diminished cognition and mobility and history of strokes so of course phone access is important. I would be so grateful for Advent's help."

Ray Busony "happened" to be in the church office and checked into the phone situation. He went to the house and got the phone working just like any CNC machine tool he battles with daily. Here's the note the two daughters sent to Advent: "Thanks to the Church for sending someone over to check on my mother, Lois Zolar. The gentleman was so kind & helpful. He was a true lifesaver. I can not tell you how much it was appreciated. Regards, Kathy and Teresa" Well done JoAnn and Ray.

They needed the 2 x 20 to be able to utilize Batelle's disinfecting service. You can report back to your generous client that whatever the number of N95s were in the donation shipment, that number has been multiplied by 20." Like John said "The Lord is providing in these difficult times! As in loaves and fishes."

More masks are available. Contact JoAnn.