



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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June 28, 2020 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

At Advent

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 9:00 a.m. We will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist with a special service.

Matthew 10:34-42 ³⁴ *Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.*

Now this sounds kind of strange to our ears. Jesus did not come to bring peace? But at his birth, didn't the angels sing "and on earth peace, good will toward men"? Of course. And doesn't the Old Testament prophesy that the Messiah would be called the Prince of Peace? Yes. So, what is our Lord teaching about His ministry?

Well, it depends what kind of peace you're talking about. If you're speaking about an earthly peace, where everything is peaches and cream, where life could be a dream, where everybody likes you, then no, Jesus did not come to bring that kind of peace.

Later on, toward the end of His time on earth, Jesus tells His disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you." And again: "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

So, peace in Jesus is real, however in the world, tribulation and trouble are to be expected. Jesus predicted it. In this world, in this life, you will have struggles. You will experience a sword if you're going to be a follower of our Lord. A part of it is a result of the Fall in Genesis, the world is fractured and deeply broken. Another aspect of the experience of a sword is that not everyone will receive the revelation of who Jesus is.

This sword will even cut through families. Jesus says: "For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household." I have certainly seen this in my own family, where my relationship to Jesus is not received, and is even rejected.

Now this is not how it has to be. Thank God for families that stay together and pray together and go to church and follow the Lord together. May their tribe increase! But sadly, that is not the case in every family. In many families, there are some who follow Jesus in faith, and others who do not. And that can create strife and division within the family.

Sometimes, in some cultures, when a member of a family becomes a Jesus Follower, there can be severe repercussions. In certain Muslim families, if one of them becomes a Christian, he or she can be shunned or rejected and literally end up dead, killed by one's own family members. To follow Christ can be a challenging life.

Now maybe it's not so severe in your experience, but still, a family divided, is not a easy bridge to cross. I have had church members who had children who abandoned the faith and left the church and taken on the ways of the world. It can be a heartbreak and an ongoing heartache. There is the wife whose husband refuses to go to church with her and hear the Word of God. And vice versa. It's a source of pain that over time becomes a dull ache, but it's still there.

Why do people not receive God's gift of salvation? Why will they resent and dislike you because you do? Well, you represent what they have rejected. Lots of people don't want to hear that they need a Savior. They think they're good enough on their own. And you're a reminder that they aren't. So, they resent you. So, if you identify with Jesus, the Bible, and the church, then they may take it out on you. This is the sword that Jesus is speaking about, the sword of division, conflict and strife that comes with being a Christian. Even in America, there is strong opposition and increasing hostility toward the Christian faith. Not only has America become a post-Christian society, it is even becoming an anti-Christian society.

But we believe that Jesus in our lives is worth any cost. *Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 10:32). Eternity is at stake!

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, June 28

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, June 29

Tuesday, June 30

Wednesday, July 1

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

7:00 p.m. The Praise Community

Thursday, July 2

7:00 p.m. Dar's Happy Hour Zoom Meeting

Sunday, July 5

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Server Schedule Today, June 28

9:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 6)

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Marcia Duennes (6/29)

Close Advent Dick McCormick

Next Sunday, July 5

9:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

Lector Kathleen Huffman

Prayers of the People Kathleen Huffman (Form 2)

Ushers Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (7/7)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Thank You

Dear Advent Family

How lovely for everyone that services have started again. Mom so wishes she could join you—she really misses worshipping. She is quite well having gotten one cataract done before this all hit and another one soon. She can see much better. The neurologist stated this would occur so I was hopeful. For her sake I go out very little and we have a former neighbor who occasionally picks up groceries and another who goes to Walmart. She is always buoyed by news of Advent and loves her prayer shawl so much. The thought of people doing this for her made me very humble and happy.
Love Karen and Lois Zolar

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

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| 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

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| Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma | Fr. Richard Lutz |
| Ken and Jim | |
| Eliza Jennings residents | |
| Liz Schilling, friend of JoAnn Beck | |
| Pastor Joyce Williams, friend of Bev Cummings | |
| Stella, friend of Bev Cummings | |
| Tom and Betty Clark | |
| Residents of Pinzone Tower (2 residents have Covid 19) | |

Safety Protection

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| 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.