



# ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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July 12, 2020 The Sixth 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.

**Isaiah 6:1-9 (NCV)** *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a very high throne. His long robe filled the Temple. <sup>2</sup> Heavenly creatures of fire stood above him. Each creature had six wings: It used two wings to cover its face, two wings to cover its feet, and two wings for flying. <sup>3</sup> Each creature was calling to the others: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD All-Powerful. His glory fills the whole earth." <sup>4</sup> Their calling caused the frame around the door to shake, as the Temple filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> I said, "Oh, no! I will be destroyed. I am not pure, and I live among people who are not pure, but I have seen the King, the LORD All-Powerful." <sup>6</sup> One of the heavenly creatures used a pair of tongs to take a hot coal from the altar. Then he flew to me with the hot coal in his hand. <sup>7</sup> The creature touched my mouth with the hot coal and said, "Look, your guilt is taken away, because this hot coal has touched your lips. Your sin is taken away." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Whom can I send? Who will go for us?" So I said, "Here I am. Send me!" <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said, "Go and tell this to the people: 'You will listen and listen, but you will not understand. You will look and look, but you will not learn.'*

This week in ADVENTures we have announced that we are beginning to ask God, how should we respond to what is happening in our culture, to be able to positively participate in what the Lord seems to be doing. My contribution is beginning to look at Isaiah 6:1-9.

In 2000, Malcolm Gladwell published a book that still impacts me. It was The Tipping Point. He studied how viral epidemics spread and then applies those insights to society. The simple concept was that certain ideas, products and behaviors can spread just like a virus. In light of the current pandemic, that is an even more significant concept. Change can come about rapidly.

Isaiah served as a prophet for about 64 years.

One day he went to the church of his day. Recently something very frightening had happened to somebody else who went to church, that was King Uzziah. Uzziah was devoted to the Lord, & did much good for his people. One day Uzziah foolishly decided that he could enter the Temple & offer incense like the priests. God struck him with leprosy. The last years of his life were spent in a separate house; he was excluded from the Temple; his son had to govern in his place.

So, when Isaiah took a few trembling steps into church that day, he wasn't "shoutin' the victory" or dancing before God. He was afraid that if the king could be struck down by God, what about him? But still he went forward. Isaiah was a solitary person who made a huge impact upon his generation and now he was at a spiritual turning point.

In the Temple he had a powerful encounter with the Lord. Isaiah trembled, because this is where Uzziah was struck down with leprosy. Here's what happened:

1. God revealed Himself at a deeper level.
2. Isaiah became aware of his own deep unworthiness.
3. Isaiah confessed his sin in deep repentance.
4. God forgave & removed his guilt & cleansed him.
5. God announced a mission, but He needed a messenger.
6. Isaiah said to God - send me.

God commanded him - Go & tell the people.

Our world, like Isaiah's seems to be growing darker & darker. Actions that once were criminal are now becoming fashionable. Isaiah said yes to the Lord. What is your answer today?

Pastor Paul Laursen

## This Week at Advent

### Sunday, July 12

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Monday, July 13

### Tuesday, July 14

### Wednesday, July 15

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

7:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

7:00 p.m. The Praise Community

### Thursday, July 16

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

### Sunday, July 19

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## Server Schedule Today, July 12

9:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 3)

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall

Close Advent Peter Meckes

### Next Sunday, July 19

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 4)

Ushers Jim Edwards & Max Gage

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (7/20)

Close Advent Ray Busony

### Greetings

Based on requests from several parishioners, we are resuming 2 services, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. starting Sunday July 19. Please mark your calendars. To support this, Jennifer Meckes asks that we recruit volunteers for Altar Guild, female or male. During the summer months the Altar Guild "work load" is light so if you are willing to help, please come for a training session Jennifer will conduct Saturday, July 10, at 11:00 a.m. at Advent. **She'll repeat it if this is too short a notice.** If you are willing to help but can't come this Saturday, please let JoAnn know at the office or me via email or cell at 440-413-0189. At the 8:00 a.m. service one person serves as acolyte, chalice bearer, lector and leader of prayers of the people. We will follow the same practice at 10:00 a.m. services. Therefore, if you are interested in serving in these capacities for either service please let JoAnn or me know by email or cell. Thanks for helping support our return to some degree of normalcy in our corporate worship services. Dick

### 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
Marcia Duennes		

#### Friends of Advent

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  
Tina, friend of Bev Cummings  
Residents of Pinzone Tower (2 residents have Covid 19)  
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthea Sabolich

#### Comfort

Susan Rausch Meitin, at the passing of Susan's mother,  
Beverly Eckart, this past Saturday

#### 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.*

## **Calls to Action**

Ray Busony, Paul Laursen, Finn Laursen and I met Friday evening, July 3, to discuss troubling “current events”. The four of us were moved to really pray and seek what the Lord has going on in our world. One outcome was to start a weekly series of ADVENTures messages with “calls to action” starting as below. We are calling on our Advent family to spend dedicated and earnest time in the Word, fasting and praying for discernment and preparation. More on fasting later. Please support this, encourage others to do so. Call Advent people not attending just now and encourage them to actively participate. ADVENTures reaches every Advent household either through email or US post. Forward to other believers who may want to join in this prayer, renewal, and preparation initiative.

**What is the Lord saying to us during these uncertain times and what are we to do in response?** I believe the Lord is in control of what’s going on in our world. But, for me it is hard to discern His wisdom for me and us followers of Christ, to hear the Holy Spirit speaking truth, and to filter out the opinions from those cultural warriors who have their own untruthful and unbiblical agendas. A foundational passage of Scripture familiar to many is 2 Chronicles 7:14. The lead in is that Solomon had just successfully finished constructing the temple for the Lord as a house of sacrifice and worship for God’s people. God said to Solomon in a dream in verse 14 “<sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” I get that. It’s not supposed to be someone else, not “they”, that should do something. It’s not down to the politicians or our leaders or sports figures or Hollywood personalities to “do something”. It’s “my people” – you, me, all of us believers. And verse 15 gives us His promise; “<sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place”.

But, this past week during daily devotions, I was overwhelmed with the preceding verse 13 that, honestly, I seemingly always jumped over. It says “<sup>13</sup> When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people . . .” When I . . . send a plague among my people”. Is that what the Lord is doing – choosing to send a plague (COVID-19, racial unrest, political division – pick your choice of the “plague”) among His people? I was sobered and convicted by this awareness.

Coming out of that sharing among these 4 godly followers was the conclusion that we need to fast, pray, praise God in our circumstances, and dig deeper into what the Word is saying – each hearing what the Holy Spirit wants heard. We took on action items to turn this talk into concrete steps. This week, we invite you to read and study 2 Chronicles 7:11-22. Read what God said to Solomon (and for sure to us) about what He would do if we turn away and do not follow the decrees and commands God has given us. Ask yourself “Why has the Lord done such a thing (COVID-19, etc.) to this land?” Pray to find His answers to “why He brought all this disaster on them (and us)”?

Please, spend some quality time with the Lord reading these passages, asking yourself these questions, possibly journaling on what the Holy Spirit wants you to hear, and praying for discernment. We’d love for you to share His revelations and your reflections. How about on a Sunday during Announcements? Want to submit a testimony for a future ADVENTures? How can we hear prophetic words from one another? These are times for this body of Christ to lift up one another, to pray, to seek His face, and to have the courage to speak truth into the darkness of our world. Please share what you hear the Lord saying.

Dick McCormick