



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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July 19, 2020 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

At Advent

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. We will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist with a special service.

Matt. 13:24-26, 36-39 (NASB) *Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ "But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also... ³⁶ Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." ³⁷ And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸ and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.*

This week's Gospel is fascinating. Jesus speaks another parable that is connected to both last Sunday's reading as well as the passage for next Sunday. After imparting this parable, Jesus goes inside and the disciples follow Him. He proceeded to interpret the meaning of this teaching just to them.

The story of the weeds and wheat brings forth a familiar theme. Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Maybe you've wondered this yourself, or you know someone who has. I hear it often from people who are looking for help when they've reached the end of their rope. There is no simple answer. As we look at our world we are seeing more darkness, more violence, more instability. The parable addresses that difficult issue.

The people who gathered on that beach to hear Jesus tell them stories weren't much different from us. They had experienced dire oppression from Rome. Even among their own people, they had watched the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. Life wasn't always fair. How could God allow His people to continue to suffer, while evil seemed to flourish around them? When would the Messiah deliver them from this miserable existence, and bring judgment to Israel's oppressors?

This teaching was mystifying to the crowd. Jesus, looking and sounding very much like He might just be the One, is telling them stories about farming! Who cares about weed control when your world is falling down around you? "Let anyone with ears listen," Jesus says, and we are reminded that these parables are more than entertaining stories.

If we are part of the crowd, we simply hear that pulling weeds can cause more harm than good, destroying the very crops we want to harvest. But this story is much more than just a farming tip for weed control. It is a story of the end of the age. After going inside, the disciples ask for an explanation, once they are alone with Jesus. The field is the Lord's, and He will continue to nurture and care for His kingdom, while the devil does nothing to support or care for his seed.

Why shouldn't we pull them if we see evil choking out the good around us? Sometimes, weeds are too big to be pulled – their roots have intertwined with the roots of the good plants, and pulling up one will also uproot the other. Sometimes, what you thought was a weed, is actually a good plant, and what you thought was a good plant is actually a weed. They aren't always easy to distinguish from one another. We aren't good at judging between wheat and weeds – that's God's job anyway.

As believers, we should not be surprised that evil is still active, even while God's reign is already established right alongside the realm of weeds. Like those workers in the field, we may think it's our job to pull the weeds, to judge who is worthy to flourish in God's kingdom and who should be rooted out. But that is not our job. Judgment is God's job. God will take care of removing evil in His own good time. Our responsibility is to live faithfully and fearlessly even though we do see weeds all around us.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, July 19

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, July 20

Tuesday, July 21

Wednesday, July 22

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 23

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

Sunday, July 26

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Server Schedule Today, 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

Next Sunday, July 26

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Denise Geyer-Keller

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Prayers of the People Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 5)

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall (7/27)

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

What is the Lord saying to you during these uncertain times and what are we to do in response?

Hopefully people have taken up the challenge to Fast/Pray/Discern/Act as the body of Christ responds to these crazy and uncertain times we are living through. At the vestry meeting this past Tuesday we discussed at length the verses from 2 Chronicles 7:11-22. Bill Campbell volunteered powerful passages that the Holy Spirit laid on his heart. They are indeed spot-on and we offer them for your prayerful study and reflection: Psalm 130; Daniel 9:1-17; Joshua 24:1-28; and Joel 2:12-17 (indeed the whole chapter). Perhaps take one of these 5 passages a day: read, study, pray, listen to the Holy Spirit, decide how you will respond to what the Lord may be laying on your heart. These aren't offered to induce fear; they are offered to help us understand our times. We'd love to hear what you are hearing – write them for ADVENTures, share them during Announcements, tell or email Paul or Ray or me. Let's individually and collectively humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our actions that don't accord with His decrees and commands.

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 |
| 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

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.