



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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August 9, 2020 The Tenth 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.

Master of the Storm

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV) Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Julius Palmer was the son of the mayor of Coventry England. After graduating from Magdalen College, a part of Oxford University in 1550, he immediately began teaching logic at his alma mater. I was highly impressed with his resume because one of my most challenging classes in college was logic. I realized early on that I am quite nonlogical in my thinking!

Edward VI the teenage King of England was a committed Christian and a strong supporter of the Reformation. He opened up schools to evangelical teaching. Palmer lost his job because of his non-evangelical beliefs. When Edward VI died in 1553, and the new queen, Mary, later known as Bloody Mary, took the throne, she was anti-evangelical and replaced Protestant professors with Roman Catholics, who were closer to her beliefs.

Reinstated at Magdalen, Palmer watched with fascination as Christians were burned at the stake for their beliefs by Queen Mary. He studied the lives and backgrounds of many who were killed for their faith in such painful ways. When the burnings started at Oxford, where he lived and worked, he went to see for himself.

The Lord used that experience to begin to change his heart. He commenced studying the Scriptures for himself and his heart was transformed. He asked Jesus into his heart. Realizing that he could no longer teach at Magdalen, he resigned and became the head of a grammar school in another town. Citizens of that community, Reading, suspected that he was now a Protestant, entered his study and found documents he had written against the Catholic Church.

On July 15, 1556 he was arrested and condemned to death for his faith. The sheriff gave him one last chance to recant, promising that if he did, the sheriff himself would see that he had financial support for the rest of his life. He even offered to find Palmer a wife. Palmer politely declined.

The next day at 5pm, Palmer and two others were brought to the place of execution. The three together dropped to their knees. Palmer prayed out Psalm 31, ending with the words, "Be strong and take courage, all you who put your hope in the Lord." As the flames engulfed them the three lifted up their hands to heaven crying out, "Lord strengthen us; Lord Jesus, receive our souls."

Our lives are not at risk like Palmer when he came to know Jesus personally. However, we are living in a time, when our values are deeply being questioned by influential elements of society, including our schools of higher education. It is important that we understand what we believe and why, so that when storms come into our lives, that we can stand strong.

Luke 9:23 - 24 (NASB) And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

The Lord bless you this week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, August 9

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 10

Tuesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 12

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, August 13

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

Sunday, August 16

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Server Schedule Today, August 9

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

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall (8/10)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Next Sunday, August 16

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick

Ushers Max Gage & Jim Edwards

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (8/17)

Close Advent Max Gage

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.

Dick McCormick

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	Finn Laursen	

Friends of Advent

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

Comfort

For Dick and Linda McCormick and family at the passing of Linda's mom, Fran Smith, July 24.

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.

Grace Abounds – Coping with COVID-19, Church and No Church:

How are you coping with Sunday worship under the new realities? For some, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services are newly welcomed. Passing the peace with air hugs and via nods & waves is abnormal for us! For others worshipping with Bishop Love via YouTube is appreciated while others have found TV or on-line Sabbath services. JoAnn continues to email and snail mail ADVENTures. Paul's short homilies on the front page are a welcome teaching when hearing in person doesn't work. We continue using the Armed Services Prayer for Spiritual Communion for those not physically able to partake of the bread & wine. While none of us like this, we continue to abide by the Bishop's authority over us by respecting and honoring his direction. I checked again this past week and he still maintains his current guideline. Dar's Happy Hour on Thursday's at 7:00 p.m. is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with one another. (Let us know if you'd like to join this Zoom session.) Folks make phone calls to fellow parishioners to stay in touch. We are trying to maintain the fellowship fabric of our spiritual family.

We continue to practice now-common steps on Sundays to protect one another:

Ushers wear masks and gloves and take everyone's temperature upon entering. Those with a temperature over 100 °F are not to enter Advent and should immediately go home.

All entering wear a mask. Masks are available when necessary and are worn during the service. Wearing a mask is a MUST during a service except when preaching or speaking from the lecterns.

We are still not singing but Dar's music selections played by her and Bruce are full of spirit and vigor. (Last Sunday she distributed tambourines, chimes and percussion instruments and we accompanied her in "Shine Jesus Shine" – without singing. Still, it was wonderful!)

Hand sanitizers are available at the door and in the pews.

Everyone maintains 6 ft. distances.

Every 2 pew rows are marked as unavailable to maintain 6 ft. between available pews.

Family members from the same household sit together in available pews.

Jason sanitizes between and after 10:00 services, after the Wednesday evening Praise Community service, on Fridays before Sunday services, after CODA meetings, and hits high-touch surfaces. He is a blessing and is so diligent.

Certainly, some are choosing not to worship corporately. That is understandable and totally an individual decision to be honored, respected, and not judged. Grace needs to abound from those who choose not to come towards those who do, and from those who do come towards those who do not join Sunday services. God's grace is His unmerited favor toward us. He calls us to extend such unmerited favor to others. Let's all do so during these challenging times – let grace abound.

Dick McCormick