



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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August 16, 2020 The Eleventh 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.

Matthew 15:21-28, Learning from the stranger in our midst

Isaiah 56:6 *Foreigners will join the LORD to worship him and love him, to serve him, to obey the law about the Sabbath, and to keep my agreement.*

In the Old Testament reading for this week, we read that it is expected that foreigners would come and worship the Lord. This is an important aspect of our faith, to understand that we exist as the church for those who are not here. While we worship the Lord Jesus Christ, we always want to live our lives individually and as a fellowship so that those who are seeking meaning and purpose in their lives will feel comfortable around us.

During this season of prayer and fasting for our nation and for revival, we are always focused on the Great Commission, to go and make disciples, not simply maintaining what we have and who we are.

In the parable of The Good Samaritan, a person who was not among God's chosen people did the will of God and cared for someone quite different who was in crisis. Someone who was among God's people, just passed by on the other side. May we not pass by a person or a need that the Lord puts in our path.

Likewise, when Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment replied in this way: **Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)** *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*³¹ *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.*

We have responsibility toward those who might be outside of our sphere of influence, people who at first might make us uncomfortable. Foreigners are people like that, who have a different background from us, but just like us need a Savior.

The Gospel story comes very soon after Jesus' feeding of the 5000 and it comes before Jesus' feeding of the 4000. There is a clear message here about the touch of the Lord that transcends all racial and political boundaries as well as our prejudicial expectations. The grace of God cannot be contained or fenced in: there is more than enough to go round.

The disciples are in a foreign region, outside of their relational and physical comfort zones. A woman comes after them, pleading for help. Not a Jew, but a Gentile. And not a man, either, but a woman. No self-respecting woman would talk to a man the way she was talking to Jesus, let alone a Gentile woman talking first to a Jewish man before being spoken to. The church sometimes tends to become like a club facing inward rather than outward. Sometimes we can operate like a clique where people are expected to conform in order to belong. But that is the exact opposite of what Jesus is doing in this story. Jesus reaches out and meets the woman in her culture. He doesn't ask her to join the club. Jesus accepts her as she is, shows compassion and grace, and extends His healing hand to her. May we be as open to others who are from outside of our cultural boundaries but who need the grace of God that we have been so abundantly given! The Lord bless you this week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, August 16

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 17

Tuesday, August 18

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

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

National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance, Sept 26, 2020: Ray Busony, Paul Laursen and I deeply hold the belief that America is in deep trouble, has lost its spiritual way, is following "too much the devices and desires of our own hearts", and that America as a country and its people are not following the Lord's commands and decrees. Finn Laursen, a leader in The Praise Community, shares these convictions. We are convinced this is a critical time in our history and in our lives as believers. You've frequently heard 2 Chronicles 7:14 but we believe it is so foundational especially now.

Several of us have been led to prophetic announcements from teacher, rabbi and Messianic Jew Jonathan Cahn. He has written books including [The Harbinger](#), [The Paradigm](#), and [The Oracle](#). His writings are grounded in numerous, numerous Biblical references. He is a modern-day prophet. He and others are organizing a National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance on September 26 to be held on the Mall in Washington DC. The Board of Trustees includes Pat Robertson, Kevin Jessip, Anne Graham Lotz (Billy Graham's daughter), Dr. Alveda King (Martin Luther King's niece), and James Dobson. I encourage you to visit the website <https://thereturn.org/> and experience for yourself what is planned. The Return is a movement, an appointed time, and a specific day set apart for one purpose – the return to God by coming before His presence in humility, in sincerity in prayer, and repentance.

Advent will be a simulcast site for this event on September 26. Right now, we're not sure what impact COVID-19 social distancing will have but we've got time to sort this out. Please add your prayers for the Lord to do powerful works leading up to and during this time of prayer.

Server Schedule Today, 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

Next Sunday, August 23

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick

Ushers Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Bev CUMmings

Counter Anne Crothall (8/24)

Close Advent John Urbas

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	Bruce Finch	

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 Cynthia 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.