



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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August 23, 2020 The Twelfth 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 16:13-20 Who Do You Say?

For over two years the twelve disciples had been following Jesus. They had seen Him perform miracle after miracle. They had been there to witness Jesus rebuke the Pharisees for their devotion to follow the traditions of man rather than to follow in the ways of God.

The disciples had been around the people, hearing what they thought of this teacher from Nazareth, who healed the sick and proclaimed the coming of the kingdom of God. So, when Jesus stopped them on the way to Caesarea Philippi and asked them this question: Who do people say that the Son of Man is, it was a significant moment.

This is a powerful question and sometimes the answer can be challenging for us as well.

- ✦ Who do you say Jesus is when a loved one dies, the doctor gives news we did not want to hear, or our life seems to be falling apart?
- ✦ Who do you say Jesus is when we are faced with decisions that have no easy answers, and it feels like the storms of life overwhelm us?
- ✦ Who do you say Jesus is when faithfulness means risking it all and taking a stand against a louder and seemingly more powerful majority?

What does it mean for you to say Jesus is my personal Lord and Savior?

Who we say Jesus is has everything to do with who and how we are and will be. In some ways our answer says as much or more about us than Jesus. It reveals how we live and what we stand up for. It guides our decisions, and determines the actions we take and the words we speak.

Who Jesus was when I was a child is different from who He was when I was 25 or who He is for me today. Hopefully, who He is for me next year will be different from who He is today. It's not that Jesus has changed. It's that we all continue to grow, hopefully deeper.

Sometimes we discover a disconnect between the "Sunday Jesus" about whom we talk for an hour, and the life we live the other 167 hours of our week. It is a reality that sometimes our words and actions don't always align.

Sometimes I kept quiet when I should have spoken up. Other times I was passive when I should have done something. Whenever I've fallen into that trap it has usually been because I was trying to play it safe. That almost never works. There is nothing safe about the question Jesus poses. There is nothing safe about Jesus or the life to which He calls us. Jesus' life and presence among us call into question everything about our lives, our world, the status quo, and business as usual.

Today I encourage you to reflect on this question as you look at your personal world right now as well as the wider world that appears at times to be spinning out of control.

The Lord bless you this week,

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, August 23

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 24

Tuesday, August 25

Wednesday, August 26

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 27

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

Sunday, August 30

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.

Good News on Advent's Finances: Thanks to God's grace and your faithfulness during the COVID pandemic, Advent revenues after 7 months of 2020 exceed budget by \$2,300 and expenses are \$9,300 less than budget. So, we show a \$11,600 surplus January -- July. And 39 attended today's 2 services compared to an average of 42 pre-COVID. This is so encouraging and a real uplift during these times. May you be blessed as you continue to be a blessing to Advent.

Server Schedule Today, 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

Next Sunday, August 30

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 Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (8/31)

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

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	Stacey Smith

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.