



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ◇ 3760 Dover Center Road ◇ Westlake ◇ OH ◇ 44145
440-871-6685 ◇ www.adventwestlake.org ◇ advent.church@sbcglobal.net

August 30, 2020 The Thirteenth 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 16:21-27 Following Jesus

This week's Gospel is fascinating. Last week we read that Peter had discerned from all the teachings and miracles that he had experienced, that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. Now, in what seems like just moments later, Jesus is telling his disciples that He must go to Jerusalem to complete His God-given mission to offer redemption to God's people by dying on the cross.

Naturally, this came as an incredible shock to the disciples. After all, why would God send someone to do something as ungodlike as dying? And if dying were necessary, why couldn't it be done on the battlefield instead of on a cross? There would be some honor in that type of death. Peter cannot grasp it. After all, he was a fisherman who now believed Jesus to be sent from heaven. Deliverance and rescue for Israel was finally coming, but Peter could not grasp the depth of Jesus' mission. He, like many of the Jews, believed that the Messiah would be a military ruler who would drive out the Romans and restore Israel to the glory days of the reigns of King David and Solomon.

I believe that Peter rebuked Jesus because he took seriously his new role as the rock on which the church was built. He took his role so seriously that he thought he had a responsibility to protect his leader and serve as His protector.

Satan sought to deflect Jesus from the difficult way Father God had appointed. Jesus stated that in advocating an easier path, that Peter was allied with the devil. In the same way, Satan tries to deflect us from God's way today. Satan has lots of traps to put in our path.

Jesus moved quickly to put an end to Peter's wrong thinking. Likewise, we must never allow the thoughts of pride or sin to dominate in our thinking. We must keep our focus set on God, and ask Him to reveal His perfect path to us. You and I can trust him fully because He knows exactly what the future holds for us.

Jesus knew the road He would have to travel would lead to self-denial and the cross, and He urges His followers to be prepared to pay the price and suffer the consequences if they want to follow Him fully. This concept wasn't easy for the disciples to understand.

Spiritual growth takes place slowly. It takes a lifetime, and even as we near the end of that journey, our understanding is far from perfect. For example, Jesus repeatedly told his disciples about the suffering that awaited him in Jerusalem, but they did not understand until after the Resurrection. The Holy Spirit had not yet come, and their eyes and minds were blinded to the eternal magnitude that lay before them.

"Cross bearing" does not always include affliction or persecution. It may mean denying what we deeply desire in order to receive a far better thing, the will of God. When we obey Him, we position ourselves for greater fruitfulness.

Jesus said that those who want to save their lives will lose them and vice versa. Our world is full of examples of people who have sold their souls in exchange for things that are only temporary. Whatever we hope to find outside of God's plan proves to be elusive and temporary. Our Christian life involves sacrifice because Jesus must come first in our lives.

Here in our little corner of the world, our persecution might not be to the point of death. It could be in the form of rejection by friends or family. Our careers might be affected. All of these are a small price that we must be prepared to pay as we take up the cross of Christ.

The cross that Jesus commands us to carry is the cross of submissive obedience to His will; It's a willingness to yield our lives and hearts totally, absolutely, irrevocably, and finally to Him because we want what He wants more than what we want!

The Lord Jesus bless you this week,

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, August 30

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1

Wednesday, September 2

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, September 3

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

Sunday, September 6

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Dave Luptak	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Stacey Smith
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	Lucille Benedict

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	

Safety Protection

David Arkley, Detective for Cleveland Police
Son of Bill & Judy Arkley
Rachel Moffitt, ER Nurse daughter of Bill & Judy Arkley

Comfort

For Bob Sanborn and family at the passing of Velta, August 24. A memorial service will be held at Advent on Saturday, September 5, 11:00 a.m.

Please contact the church office if you would like your name added or removed from our list.

Server Schedule Today, 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

Next Sunday, September 6

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 6)

Ushers Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (9/8)

Close Advent Ray Busony



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. Please use the sign-up slips in the bulletin, to let us know you will be attending.

Holy Eucharist Restart!

Bishop Hollingsworth has authorized a resumption of our participation in Holy Eucharist starting September 6. This is welcome news! The following are guidelines we will follow during this restart:

1. All involved in preparation and celebration will wear masks and thoroughly wash hands before handling elements and vessels.
2. Paul will set the table and be the only person to stand at it for the Great Thanksgiving. There will be no acolyte or chalice bearer.
3. Paul will handle the elements, and only after thoroughly cleansing his hands with sanitizer. This is what he has been doing.
4. Only Paul will consume the “Priest Host” and the wine.
5. Baptized communicants may consume the wafers brought to the table for consecration in a covered container. It shall remain covered through consecration until distribution.
6. Communicants will not receive the wine, only Paul.
7. Distribution will be in front of the altar. We will not kneel at the altar rail.
8. Ushers will release communicants from pews row by row as normal.
9. Communicants will come forward individually and in single file, wearing masks, and practicing safe distancing of at least 6 feet.
10. Paul will place the consecrated wafer into the open hand of the communicant.
11. The communicant may either:
 - * lift the mask, consume the sacrament, replace the mask, and return to the pew, providing as much safe distancing as possible, or
 - * leave the mask in place, receive the wafer, return to the pew, and commune the wafer in the pew.

We are grateful for this important step as we move toward a day when we can worship and have fellowship together in an historical and normal manner. Some continue to choose not to worship corporately. This individual and family decision is honored, respected, and not judged. We endorse the individual freedom to worship and participate in services in the ways most comfortable for each believer. Hopefully all will feel this small step forward helps to mitigate fear and despair that so permeates our culture right now. Peace be with you!

Regards,
Dick