



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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September 20, 2020 The Sixteenth 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 20:1-16 (NASB) Equal Pay for Unequal Work

Matt. 20:13-16 (MSG) Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? ¹⁴ So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. ¹⁵ Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?' ¹⁶ Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first.

This week's Gospel is another fascinating parable. A reader of a parable sometimes has to labor like a vineyard worker. There's an element of struggle in trying to draw out a deeper meaning. In this parable, the landowner goes to the marketplace early in the day to obtain his workers for that day agreeing on the usual daily wage, enough for about one day's survival.

The landowner goes back to the town square several times. You might wonder why he spends his whole day getting the workers himself. At the end of the day, the whistle blows and all the workers gather to receive their wages. The manager was told to start paying the last arrivals first. This wasn't the way remuneration was usually done, but the first workers got to see what the latecomers are being paid and think, "Cool. We'll get more than that for sure." But no, they got exactly what was agreed upon. They complain that they didn't get equal pay for equal work.

The landowner responds, "Did I cheat you out of something? Take what's yours and go. I chose to give to this last group the same as I gave to you." And here's the punch line: the owner says: "Are you envious because I am generous?" In Greek it actually reads: "Is your eye evil because I am good?" They are envious of his goodness.

Here Jesus is speaking to His disciples, not to the religious leaders. The disciples can't seem to grasp that God is good and there's enough goodness to go around. Jesus is warning them disciples to guard against jealousy and envy. Jealousy can come from a place of fear when we feel the threat of losing something or someone we value. Envy comes from a place of desire when we wish we had what someone else has. Shakespeare called jealousy "the green eyed monster."

Jealousy and envy might be the most painful feelings we experience. We are embarrassed or ashamed. To self-justify, we might gossip about them or even give them the evil eye. We might say subtle things that plant seeds of negativity. Jesus however says that His disciples must live counter culturally, weeping together, when one weeps; and rejoicing together, when one rejoices. It's certainly easier to weep with another person. It can be excruciating to rejoice with someone else in their accomplishment. We ask, "Why them and not me?"

There will always be someone better off: prettier, more handsome, richer, smarter, funnier, more athletic, more creative, a better singer a better parent, have a better marriage, have kids who don't get into trouble, better clothes, more shoes, have better landscaping, and so on, and so on.

Is there an antidote to jealousy or envy? Is it possible that by looking at what others get, we are blind to what we have? I believe that gratitude and rejoicing with others is an antidote. Having a glad heart as the Psalmist says, is an antidote.

I believe a core teaching here is to mind our own business. Stop getting distracted by looking around to see what others have or don't have. Put on our spiritual blinders and take seriously our own call to the work God has given us, with the gifts we have been given, and not with the gifts we haven't been given. Thank the Lord that we are on the receiving end of the Lord's grace-filled paycheck!

The Lord Jesus bless you this week,

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, September 20

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

Monday, September 21

Tuesday, September 22

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, September 23

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 24

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

Saturday, September 26

9:00 a.m. The Return

Sunday, September 27

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	
Jan, friend of Bev Cummings	
Residents of Pinzone Tower	
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.

Server Schedule Today, September 20

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 3)

Ushers Jim Edwards & Max Gage

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (9/21)

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

Next Sunday, September 27

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Scott Duennes

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 4)

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall (9/28)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Final Schedule for The Return, September 26

A handout is available this morning which includes a revised agenda/schedule for **The Return** coming up on September 26. The schedule is different from the previous abbreviated one and has no break for lunch, starts at 9:00 and runs through 5:00 PM. Jonathan Cahn gives the Keynote Address from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m. The schedule has a list of speakers. Pray for a powerful movement of repentance!



SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 4 We will have one special service at 10:00 a.m. on this date. Please make it a priority to attend. Exciting development. More information to follow soon.