



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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October 4, 2020 The Eighteenth 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, and welcome The Rev'd Ben Randall for our sermon today.

10-4-20 Matthew 21:33-43

⁴² *Jesus said to them, Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER STONE; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, & IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?*

⁴³ *Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you & given to a people, producing the fruit of it.*

Jesus refers in our Gospel for this week to Psalm 118, which is one of the Hallel Psalms, often sung as pilgrims approached Jerusalem for the great festivals of the year. **Psalm 118:22-24 (NASB)** *The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.* ²³ *This is the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.*

²⁴ *This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Think of the impact on the listeners as Jesus spoke. He is that rejected stone, but He is revealed as the corner stone of the New Covenant!

The image comes from the ancient quarries where workers carefully chose the stones used in construction. No stone was more important than the cornerstone because the integrity of the whole structure depended on the cornerstone containing exactly the right lines. If the cornerstone were not exactly right, the entire structure could be out of line. For that reason, the stone cutters worked very carefully, rejecting stones that were not cut exactly right. Rejected stones might be used in other parts of the building, but they would never become the cornerstone.

I was in Egypt some years ago in what was believed to be one of the quarries from which stones were carved that would be used in building some of the great pyramids. Incredible to comprehend. The work of the cutters and the many people who transported the stones from the mountain quarry is difficult to imagine. Each stone was carefully carved and then transported down the mountainside to the emerging site of the pyramid. Now we see the finished product that was envisioned by the original builders.

Jesus was that perfect stone for us. He was in complete harmony with the description of the coming Messiah; yet the ones who eagerly had waited centuries for Him, rejected God's Messiah even though He fulfilled all that was written of Him. He was that stone that would perfectly fulfill God's plan for restoration that had been in process since the Fall in the Garden of Eden.

When Peter preached to the Jewish leaders in Acts 4:8-12, he quoted Psalm 118:22 also, to show that Jesus is that rejected stone whom God made to be the cornerstone of salvation. Peter declared "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). There is no other hope, no other way, and no other name than the name of Jesus.

Back again to the parable: we've all been given vineyards. They are the people, relationships, circumstances, and events of our lives that God has entrusted to our care. That means every aspect of our life, our daily decisions and choices, our hopes, and dreams, are the vineyards in which we are to reveal the presence and life of God and to grow the fruit of the kingdom.

We are given a portion of the Father's vineyard that is uniquely prepared for us and our gifts and calling. At times, our life in the vineyard can seem quite challenging, but we are there to work for Him who is our chief cornerstone. As Christians we have built our lives on Him as our foundation. Scripture teaches that we have been made according to the Lord's specifications for His pleasure and for this generation specifically. Praise God!

The Lord bless you this week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, October 4

8:00 a.m. No Service
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, October 5

Tuesday, October 6

Wednesday, October 7

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, October 8

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

Sunday, October 11

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 | 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

Comfort

For Bill Arkley and family at the passing of his mother.
For Jason and Khoa Evans and family at the passing of Jason's mother, Beverly Evans

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, October 4

8:00 a.m.

Assistant None

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 5)

Ushers Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (10/5)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Next Sunday, October 11

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Denise Geyer-Keller

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Prayers of the People Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 6)

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall (10/11)

Close Advent Peter Meckes

OCTOBER Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 11 Max Gage | 20 Alex Dzurec |
| 14 Peter Meckes | Kaylei Evans |
| 16 Art Decker | 25 Jan Nagy |
| 18 Liz Urbas | 31 Robert Allen |

OCTOBER Anniversaries

8 John & Anne Crothall



Beverly Evans Memorial Service

A memorial service for Beverly Evans (Mother of Jason Evans) is schedule for Saturday, October 10, 2:00 p.m. here at Advent.

The Return on Sept 26 Is Over – Now What?

We have been fasting and praying leading up to the Jonathan Cahn-led **The Return**. We had weekly announcements. We looked forward with anticipation to what might happen. The crescendo came last Saturday – for many, a “spiritual high”. For most of us, the prayers, speakers, Bible passages, music, and messages far exceeded our expectations going in. But . . . now what? Now the “heavy lifting” must begin in earnest. That spiritual event challenged us to turn to the Lord, confess our sinfulness, repent and change our ways, and experience revival. But, how do we do that? As a starting point, we repeat here the prayers from this past Sunday’s bulletin. They are a guide to what we do next. Be encouraged by them, embrace them with your whole being, and continue the good work in you that has come about from our fasting, prayer and revival experiences thus far. As Jonathan Cahn said several times, “Lord, have your way with us.” If you want to relive some of the Friday night worship, Saturday sacred assembly, and Saturday night worship, they are available in their entirety at <https://thereturnsimulcast.com/the-return> .

PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION

For too long the people of God have slumbered and allowed evil to grow unabated. We have forgotten the Rock upon which our faith was founded. And we have removed Him from our public squares, our culture, and our lives. We need the holy remnant to arise and take back all that has been lost. To fall to our knees, confess our sins, and take action against the evil that has seeped into every corner of our world. Pray for God’s people to stand for justice and righteousness.

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of the orphans. Fight for the rights of widows. (ISAIAH 1:17)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ (ISAIAH 52:7)

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights. (PSALM 18:33)

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (EPHESIANS 2:10)

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (MATTHEW 5:14-16)

Who is Fr. Ben Randall and Family?

Linda always gets after me for not asking the important questions about someone so . . . I’m trying to answer what might be on your mind. Fr. Ben Randall is a 36-year-old Brit of British-Swiss-Australian nationality (ask him how that can be!); nurtured by Roman Catholic parents; raised in Yorkshire in the north of England; educated at St. Andrew’s in Scotland and Cambridge in England where he sat for his divinity degree; ordained in the Church of England, served as a Curate and Parish Lay Worker in England; came to the USA in June 2017; and has served as Vicar at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in McMinnville Tennessee for 3+ years. He describes himself as gregarious, a born again evangelical of deep conviction who is undergoing renewal by the Holy Spirit, and passionate about Jesus, the Bible, and history (ancient and of Islam). He enjoys gardening, travel and graphic novels. Sounds boring, huh? His wife Rebekah is American, this fall is finishing her nursing classwork, and will commence clinicals early in 2021. Their daughter Poppy is 8 years old. All three will be in Cleveland this weekend, worshipping with us on Sunday. Please welcome them with hospitality and socially-distant open arms!

Dick McCormick, Senior Warden

Love INC.

Love In the Name of Christ is collecting coats for the homeless and disadvantaged in Cuyahoga County September 20—October 22. Please bring your coats to Advent by October 22. Children’s and 2X, 3X, and 4X coats are the most needed. Thank you! Questions call 216.459.0302 or email meesh@loveincuy.org.