



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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October 11, 2020 The Nineteenth 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.

Rod and Staff Psalm 23:4 *Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

This week I want to focus on Psalm 23, the Old Testament reading for October 11. Additionally, yesterday, Saturday, I served as the celebrant at the memorial service for Beverly Evans, mother of Jason Evans, our sexton. The words of Psalm 23 often bring comfort to the grieving.

In our text this morning, David prays: *Thy rod and thy staff; they comfort me.* Using the image of God as his shepherd and having been a shepherd most of his youth, David knew the tools of a shepherd: a rod and a staff.

The **ROD** was what we might see as a good strong club used mostly for defense against predators of the sheep and sometimes used to scan the deep wool of the sheep for insects or signs of skin disease down below the surface of the wool. There were times too when counting the sheep, that it was said that sheep passed under the bar of the rod as they went into the place of shelter for the night.

The **STAFF** with its curved top was useful in rescuing a fallen or lost sheep in a crevice. It could also be used to separate the flock or individual sheep from the flock. On uneven or hilly ground, the staff was useful for stability. In some churches today, the minister will carry a staff that symbolizes the office of pastor. The comfort came for David in knowing that his Heavenly Shepherd, had used rod and staff to protect and bless him.

Remember that Moses raised the rod and in the name and power of the Lord parted the waters of the Red Sea so that the Israelites could escape the onrushing Egyptian army. And then with the same rod raised called forth for the waters to return to swallow up the enemy.

Another time, Moses was on the hillside while his soldiers were in battle. He raised the rod until his arms grew tired. He realized as long as the rod was raised the Israelites were winning but when lowered they were being defeated, so Aaron and Hur stood on either side of Moses and held up his arms as he held the rod upward to the Lord and won the battle over their enemy. (Ex. 14 and 17)

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. The rod brings correction; it is the staff that guides, directs, steadies, rescues. They go together in our lives as in David's, the rod and the staff: judgment, and mercy; correction and care; tough and gentle; the cross and the empty tomb.

God moves in our lives to correct as well as to comfort and lead. In the New Testament this is the clear role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Colossians 1:11-13 (NCV) *God will strengthen you with his own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient.*¹² *And you will joyfully give thanks to the Father who has made you able to have a share in all that he has prepared for his people in the kingdom of light.*

¹³ *God has freed us from the power of darkness, and he brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*

In Jesus, the light of God's glory is being restored in our lives, and He will provide a pathway for us as we walk through those occasional dark valleys.

The Lord Jesus bless you this week!
Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, October 11

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

Monday, October 12

Tuesday, October 13

Wednesday, October 14

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 15

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

Sunday, October 18

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 Cynthia Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	

Comfort

For the family of Bob Sanborn, at his passing, Thursday, October 8.

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.

Love INC.

Love In the Name of Christ is collecting coats for the homeless and disadvantaged in Cuyahoga County September 20 through 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.

Server Schedule Today, 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 (10/12)

Close Advent Peter Meckes

Next Sunday, October 18

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Denise Geyer-Keller

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Prayers for the Candidates Denise Geyer-Keller

Ushers Jim Edwards & Max Gage

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (10/19)

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Today is Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Following the 10:00 a.m. service there will be a small reception in the Parish Hall for Pastor Paul with a cake and other goodies thanking him for his dedication, and our appreciation for all he has done for us. All are welcomed to enjoy & celebrate but we have to observe social distance & masks as necessary.

Prayers for Pastors and Priests

Lord, grant Your Pastors and Priests to ponder Your Word diligently, that they may teach the people. Remove all temptations from them that would entice them away from sound doctrine. Build them up to preach the truth rightly. Endow them with holy, honorable lives. Use them as instruments of Your grace. Bless their wives and children as they serve the sheep of Your pasture, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Financial Statements

Your third quarter financial statements were mailed out this week. Please call the office (440-871-6685) if there are any questions.

Hopeful Visitation with Fr. Ben Randall and Family

Fr. Ben and his family were very positively impacted by the hospitality, genuine interest in their wellbeing, gifts of generosity, and warmth expressed by all of you during their time with us last weekend. He remarked how he was humbled when several people said to him in various words and ways “God bless you”. He interprets this as a sign of the depth of our community’s spirituality. Many of you provided to vestry members positive feedback on Fr. Ben. One person said “It was wonderful and uplifting to hear a child’s voice in church.” Yeah, Poppy! The 3.5-hour vestry meeting Sunday night was far-reaching in questions and discussions, candid, revealing, and foundational for airing issues of importance to all – including lack of families, finances, how to grow our youth population, compatibility of ministry and worship styles of Advent and Fr. Ben, his concerns about Advent, our concerns about Fr. Ben, and timing of the start of his ministry if a call is issued and accepted. Fr. Ben’s meeting Monday morning with Bp. Hollingsworth was not an interview but rather of a “get-acquainted” nature, short and cordial. No roadblocks there. I know prayer warriors have been fervently praying. Thank you! Please continue to pray, as all parties involved need to hear the Holy Spirit speaking and to reject Satan’s attempts to sow fear, doubt and confusion. The vestry will meet within the next few days as we continue to discern whether to issue a call to Fr. Ben.

Bishop Love Found Guilty

The Hearing Panel found Bishop William H. Love guilty of failing to abide by the Discipline and Worship of The Episcopal Church, and thus violating his ordination vows when he issued a Pastoral Letter and Directive to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Albany on Nov. 10, 2018, in response to the 79th General Convention Resolution B012.

“This Panel unanimously concludes that TEC has met its burden of showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that Bishop Love has violated Canon IV.4.1(c) in that his November 10, [2018] Pastoral Directive violated the Discipline of the Church, as Resolution B012 was properly constituted and passed as an authorized revision to the BCP as expressly provided for in Constitution Article X, thus requiring that all Bishop Diocesans permit their clergy the option to utilize such rites. TEC has further met its burden of establishing that Bishop Love’s Direction also violated the Discipline of the Church in that it violated Canon I.18. The canonical legitimacy of Resolution B012 rendered Canon I.18 mandatory, requiring adherence by Bishops Diocesan in permitting their Clergy the option to perform same-sex marriage rites. TEC has also met its burden of establishing that the Direction violated the Worship of the Church in that Resolution B012 added canonically-authorized same-sex marriage rites to the Worship of the Church pursuant to the BCP.”

Bishop Love responded, “While I am very disappointed and strongly disagree with the Decision of the Hearing Panel, particularly their argument that B012 was passed as an authorized revision to the Book of Common Prayer, they have issued their judgement. Unfortunately, given the nature of this case, I have no reason to believe that appealing the Hearing Panel’s Decision would result in any different outcome.

A separate Hearing will be scheduled within the month to discuss the terms of discipline to be carried out. Until then, we don’t know what actions will be taken. Whatever the final outcome, it will severely impact not only me and the ministry entrusted to me as Bishop of Albany, but it will also seriously impact the life and ministry of the Diocese. I continue to pray that somehow God will use all of this for His purposes.

I want to thank all of you who have been holding me, my family, and the Diocese of Albany up in your thoughts and prayers these past many months. I would ask that you please continue to do so. We appreciate and need those prayers.”