



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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December 6, 2020 The Second Sunday of Advent

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.

Gifts at Christmas #2: Joy

Last week I wrote about the gift of strength that God wants to give us this Christmas season. Today we're going to look at another gift that heaven wants to impart – the Gift of Joy. One of the first things ever said about Jesus was that He was coming to bring joy. An angel appeared to some shepherds and said: *Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* **Luke 2:10-11(ESV)**

This is the kind of joy that settles deep down inside, the kind of joy that remains even when there's nothing to laugh at, or nothing to celebrate. It is a deep-seated joy that cannot be taken from you no matter what circumstance you might find yourself in.

The angel said that this "good news of great joy" was "for all the people." Not only for the people of Israel, but for all people of all time who would willingly accept this good news into their hearts. In fact, Peter writes to believers like us, who have never seen Jesus face to face: *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in Him & rejoice with joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory.* **1 Peter 1:8 (ESV)**

There is nothing that can bring us greater joy than the knowledge that God has set us free from the bondage of sin. Maybe you have been a Christian for some time, and for whatever reason you have allowed this gift of joy to lapse.

Pray like David did: *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.* **Psalms 51:12 (ESV).** David isn't praying for salvation; by our understanding of Old Testament faith, he was already saved. He is praying for a restoration of that joy that was once his. Accept the gift of God's joy through the freedom He offers, and then accept it again, and again, and again. God gives, and restores, and makes whole.

If you are already a Christian who has lost your joy, open up your heart to Him today, admit your failure to rely on His gift, get it all out in the open, and simply receive.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. **Psalms 16:11(ESV).** When is the Psalmist filled with joy? When He is in God's presence. How do we spend time in the presence of God? When we pray and meditate on God's Word.

Prayer is one aspect of dwelling in God's presence. Knowing that God hears me and that He cares, that He understands, and that He will act upon what I am revealing to Him through prayer fills me with joy unspeakable.

The other aspect of dwelling in God's presence is spending time meditating and studying what He wants to reveal to me in His Word. *Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.* **Jer. 15:16 (ESV).** To dwell in God's presence, I study the Words He has written me. I take a passage of Scripture and simply reflect on what God is telling me. I speak to Him in prayer and He responds to me through His Word. Through that two-way communication, on a regular basis, God will fill you and me with the joy that only He can bring!

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **John 15:9-11 (ESV)**

Pastor Paul Laursen



December 24 Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Eucharist. Invite your family and friends.

This Week at Advent

Sunday, December 6

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

Monday, December 7

Tuesday, December 8

Wednesday, December 9

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
7:00 p.m. The Praise Community

Thursday, December 10

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

Sunday, December 13

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

Server Schedule Today, December 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 4)

Ushers Peter Meckes & Jim Edwards

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (12/7)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Next Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 5)

Ushers Max Gage & Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Bev Cummings

Counter Anne Crothall (12/14)

Close Advent Max Gage

December Birthdays

2 Jim Walker	3 Laura Boyce
4 Cynthea Sabolich	11 Angelo Evans
11 Chuck Meriam	14 Kathleen Huffman
17 Kay Blossom	19 Andrea Dzurec
	30 Sharon Rice



December Anniversaries

17 Ed & Lillian Kwasny
19 Peter & Jennifer Meckes
20 Steve & Susan Boyce
22 Jim & Karen Edwards

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Ed Kwasny	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
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	
Denise Geyer-Keller		

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
Stella, friend of Bev Cummings
Tina, friend of Bev Cummings
Residents of Pinzone Tower
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthea Sabolich
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy

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.



Advent Wreath Readers

At the 10:00 a.m. service today, Bev Cummings will present the short Christmas readings that accompany the lighting of the Advent Wreath.