

# ADVENTURES a weekly newsletter

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

## 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. Psalm 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 foreyermore. Psalm 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

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

The Praise Community 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 10

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

Sunday, December 13

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

**Prayer Request** 

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny Ed Kwasny Joan Joye Stacev Smith Mary Lou Dixon Marilyn Decker Bob Allen Karen Zolar Rose Walker Barb Frank Lois Zolar Arthur Beel Michael Uhrich Sharon Rice George Belinsky Shirley Moore Bill & Judy Arkley Steve Boyce

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.

Server Schedule Today, December 6

8:00 a.m.

**Assistant** Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Dick McCormick **Assistant** 

Dick McCormick Lector

**Prayers of the People** Dick McCormick (Form 4)

Peter Meckes & Jim Edwards Ushers

**Intercessory Prayer** Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (12/7)

**Close Advent** Ray Busony

Next Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m.

Dick McCormick **Assistant** 

10:00 a.m.

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

Dick McCormick Lector

**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 4 Cynthea Sabolich

3 Laura Boyce 11 Angelo Evans

11 Chuck Meriam

14 Kathleen Huffman

17 Kay Blossom

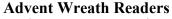
19 Andrea Dzurec

30 Sharon Rice



#### **December Anniversaries**

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



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

