



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

Advent Episcopal Church ◊ 3760 Dover Center Road ◊ Westlake ◊ OH ◊ 44145
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**January 10, 2021 The First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of Lord Jesus Christ**

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

At Advent

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:6-11 (NASB) John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.⁷ And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals."⁸ "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; ¹¹ and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has given us four portraits of God's Son, the Lord Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. All four of them are important and through these Gospels we see our Lord from different perspectives. It is like looking at a mountain. It's like the difference between seeing the Rocky Mountains from the east and then from the west, then driving through a portion of the range, and then finally flying over the Rockies! Each experience gives a bit different understanding of the mountain range. The Gospels are like that. They are all looking at Jesus, but through a different lens. Within the four Gospels we see the fullness and the richness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark was probably the first of the four in being written and is also the shortest. His is an action Gospel. If you were to think of Matthew and Luke, then you might kind of think of them as PowerPoint slides of the life of Christ. If you look at John, then you think of his telling of Jesus' life and teaching as a beautifully drawn portrait of the life of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark is more like an action-packed motion picture. You discover the words *immediately*, and *straightway*, and *forthwith*. It is just packed with action. Mark's telling of Jesus' life and ministry begins with the baptism of Jesus.

In Mark, Jesus commenced His public ministry by being baptized. Now fast forward to the end of the book. How did Jesus conclude His ministry? He commanded us to go into all the world and baptize people in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He commenced and also concluded His ministry by putting an emphasis on baptism.

Jesus only had a ministry of about 3½ years. And, of all of the things that He could have done, think of the tremendous emphasis Jesus placed on baptism. Jesus took a trip, 60 miles one-way, to be baptized by the Baptist. John was baptizing in the Jordan River at a certain place, because it takes water, and it takes a lot of water to baptize. Secondly, John lived away from Jerusalem out into the wilderness. Even though his father was a priest, John lived in the desert and was the forerunner of the Messiah. Jesus went out into the desert to agree with John's ministry that called for repentance.

You may remember from the Christmas gospel that John first announced the Messiah while he was still in his mother's womb! So now John publicly proclaimed for all those who followed him that the Lord's Messiah was at hand. What an amazing revelation for the people.

Baptism is central for us. Scripture says that when we come to Jesus, that we are in effect baptized with Jesus into His death and resurrection. The picture of going down into the water of the Jordan River is a clear picture of our salvation when we come to Jesus and receive Him as our Redeemer.

Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, January 10, 2021

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, January 11

Tuesday, January 12

Wednesday, January 13

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, January 14

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

Sunday, January 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Zoom Invitation

This is a recurring invitation for worship services at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. You can use the same link, Meeting ID, and Passcode Sunday after Sunday. This way, the link won't change week by week. You can launch the link either from this transmittal or a separate email I'll send, which should overcome the difficulties some have experienced recently.

Peace be with you!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFXZVhmVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,93790207331#,,,,*988930# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,93790207331#,,,,*988930# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adIAxI5aCt>

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	Sue Boyce
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	Shirley Moore
John & Anne Crothall		Roger Luptak

Friends of Advent

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma Ken and Jim	Fr. Richard Lutz 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 Cynthia Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	
Megan Keller	
Gordon Williams (fiancé of Megan Geyer-Keller)	
Marie Archer	

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.

Thank you from Alpha

Dear members of Advent,
Happy New Year! May you find God's incredible peace as we look with Christ-centered HOPE to this year that lies ahead. Thanking you as we thank the Lord for your incredible generosity to Alpha. Please be in prayer for the Holy Spirit to bring so many more people to Christ this coming year through Alpha!

In Christ

Bruce Fraley on behalf of the Alpha Ohio Team

2020 Financial Statements

2020 Financial Statements have been mailed to members. Please contact JoAnn in the office (440-871-6685) if you have any questions concerning your statements.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you ordered or wanted a poinsettia and are not able to get to the church, would you call the church (440-871-6685) office & leave your name & phone number and we'll see about dropping one off at your house. We need to find homes for the beautiful plants. We'll deliver/pick up the plants that people ordered first but we always have plants left over. If you are able, please stop by the sanctuary & pick up a plant if you ordered one and we'll try to find homes for the rest.

Ray Busony
Jr Warden

Advent Annual Meeting To Be Held Virtually on January 31, 2021

Our By-Laws stipulate an annual meeting is to be held the 3rd or 4th Sunday in January with public notice being given 3 consecutive Sundays preceding it. Given COVID restrictions, we will hold this year's meeting virtually via Zoom on January 31 immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. Agenda items include approval of the 2020 annual meeting minutes, a review of 2020 financials, review and approval of the 2021 budget, election of 3 vestry people, and other pertinent reports and business. Per By-Laws, a minimum of 18 people must attend to vote for vestry. We ask that you join us for this and every 9:00 a.m. worship service and also continue on January 31 for the annual meeting.

For each Sunday service and for the annual meeting, Zoom access is available by PC, iPad or iPhone, and smartphone via the Zoom link;

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFhZVhnVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

Dial-in is also available using any phone by calling:

312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331#

Participant ID: #

Passcode: 988930#

The 2021 Advent Flower Calendar

The 2021 Flower Calendar is posted on the wall outside the parish office. If you wish to donate flowers for the altar, please add your name to the Calendar. Please print clearly if you are donating the flowers in memory of a loved one, as a thank offering, or in celebration of a birthday or anniversary. Flower costs will be the same as 2020, \$40.00. Payment must be received before flowers will be ordered.