



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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

January 17, 2021 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

John 1:43-51 Nazareth and Nathanael

People of faith make all sorts of assumptions every day. Sometimes our assumptions are about other people; how they will behave, what they will say, what we can expect, what they think or believe. Other times we look at what is happening right now in Washington or the Middle East. Even more personally, we look at our marriage and we say it is hopeless. We have no faith that anything worthwhile will come out of this situation.

Then there are those times we look at ourselves, perhaps the hurts we have caused others, the loneliness of personal grief or disappointment, and we say it will never get any better. How can anything good come out of this? We may or may not speak our assumptions out loud but they rattle through our heads and influence what we do.

Here is a key thought for this week: the assumptions we make can destroy relationships. We think we know more than really do. Assumptions actually act as limitations. They narrow our vision. They close off the possibility of change and growth. Our assumptions deny the possibility of reconciliation, of healing, or a new life. Ultimately and unintentionally, such assumptions are silently declaring that there is no room for God to show up and act.

It is fascinating to me that Nathanael is sitting under a fig tree. Adam and Eve had experience with fig trees and the leaves that they used to hide behind in the Garden. It is a fig tree that Jesus will later curse for producing no fruit, no signs of life. Assumptions can become our hiding places. They are not fruitful. They keep us from experiencing all that the Lord has for us today.

Nathanael doesn't doubt that God will fulfill the Old Testament promises. He isn't surprised by and doesn't even question that Philip could have found the one about "*whom Moses in the law and the prophets spoke.*" He is stunned that this revelation could come out of Nazareth.

Here is where I want to land this plane. We all have our Nazareths. We think they are about other people, and certain circumstances. Mostly, though, our assumptions are about our own fears, our prejudices, our guilt, perhaps a long ago loss that still hurts. We take our past experiences, real or imagined, and project them onto another person or situation. Assumptions keep life shallow and superficial.

Sometimes we can struggle to believe that the Lord could really be present and actively involved in our lives. Sometimes it's easier to expect that I am on my own, that the Lord has bigger issues than mine. Nazareth can be a blind spot. For God, however, Nazareth is the place of His manifestation of Himself.

When Jesus was calling His disciples, Nazareth seemed too common and ordinary. Shouldn't the place of God's coming be more deserving, and even more holy? The really good news is that our Lord does not allow himself to be limited by our assumptions. For every Nazareth there is an invitation to "*come and see.*" Our Nazareths can become the place of God's epiphany.

The last place we would have thought possible is the first place God chooses. *Come and see.* Our salvation and healing happen where we thought nothing good could happen. Reconciliation and new beginnings really are possible. The seemingly hopeless situations of life can begin to bear fruit. Words of forgiveness and compassion are spoken by people we were sure could never say such things. God puts lives back together in Nazareth.

The very best comes out of Nazareth, Jesus Himself! Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, January 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, January 18

Tuesday, January 19

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, January 20

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 20

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

Sunday, January 24, 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=NWFXZVhmVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzlZQT09>

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	Shirley Moore
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Michael Uhrich	Sharon Rice	George Belinsky
Bill & Judy Arkley	Steve Boyce	Sue Boyce
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	Roger Luptak
John & Anne Crothall		

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 Cynthia Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	
Marie Archer	

Comfort

For Jim Walker and family at the passing of Rose.

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.

Directory Update

Please update your directory:

Barbara Frank

Rose Assisted Living
33200 Health Campus Blvd Apt. #270
Avon, OH 44011
440-937-6506

Art Beel

Beelarthur89@gmail.com

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.