



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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

February 7, 2021 The Fifth 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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Healing with Purpose

This week's Gospel from Mark is an unusual one. It could easily be made into two clearly different messages. In this ADVENTures teaching, I am going to focus on the first part of this great passage, **Mark 1:29-34**. This passage tells us about the greatness of the power of our Lord to heal the sickness of people, and of how He willingly met their needs. And what's more, it tells us about how willing He was to do so. Our Lord is a compassionate and merciful and sacrificial Servant to people.

The synagogue they had just left was the one in Capernaum, where the Lord Jesus had just cast an unclean spirit out of a man right in the middle of the service. That event had created quite a stir; and the word about Him began to spread immediately throughout the regions of Galilee.

Jesus and His small band of followers went from the synagogue, and into the home of Simon Peter and Andrew. When they got there, they found that the mother of Peter's wife was sick. The word used to describe her illness is one that comes from the Greek word for 'burning'. She was running a bad fever, not Covid19, but something serious; because we're told that the woman was lying in bed, unable to come and greet the guests.

As soon as they arrived, it may be that Peter's wife told Peter about her serious condition; and then they told Jesus. In verse 31, we're told, "So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her." Mark doesn't say that Jesus first healed her and *then* lifted her up; but rather that He clasped her by the hand, and raised her up, and that *then* the fever left her!

As she was on her way up, the fever was on its way out! There was no 'recovery time' required. She was immediately up and immediately well! Powerful! We're told that "she served them"! She got right up with great joy, and was very soon in the kitchen preparing the meal! There's a lesson here. When have the Lord in our hearts, we have a clear sense of how good He has been to us and we want to serve Him. I believe that demonstrates the greatest reason of all to be in the Lord's service; and that is, because we are thankful and grateful for what He has done for us.

Then look at what happened. In verse 32, we're told "At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed." Word had spread, not only about Jesus' authority over evil spirits, but also about His power to heal; and all were coming to Him. Mark is careful to tell us that this happened "at evening".

It had been the Sabbath day, when everyone was to rest from their work. The tremendous amount of work that Jesus did would have been against the law of Moses to have been done on the Sabbath. But as soon as the Sabbath day had ended, at around 6 pm, they came; and He gave Himself entirely to the service of all the needy people. That's how our Lord worked. Even in doing good to people, He honored and obeyed the Father's commandments.

Mark tells us in verse 33 that "the whole city was gathered at the door". Peter and Andrew would probably never have forgot the sight of it all for as long as they lived! The whole city of Capernaum gathered at *their* doorstep!

Why is it that He doesn't take every illness away from us today? Why does He allow some of us to suffer? I know, of course, that He can. I don't know why He doesn't heal everyone who asks today, just as He did on that day long ago. But I do believe that whatever our need may be, we will always find relief in Him every time we go to Him. He will never turn anyone away who sincerely comes to Him for help. He will even give strength for the times of suffering. Jesus is a compassionate Savior who gladly meets the needs of everyone who comes to Him.

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, February 7

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer via ZOOM

Monday, February 8

Tuesday, February 9

Wednesday, February 10

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, February 11

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

Sunday, February 14

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=NWFhZVh0VGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

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/adIAx15aCt>

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		Bev Cummings
Liz Urbas	Richard Ward Jr	

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	
Marie Archer	
Bill Nichole	
Britney Nichole	

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.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 12 Scott Boyce | 28 Rob & Andrea Dzurec |
| 16 Lois Zolar | |
| 20 Edward Kwasny | |
| 21 Matthew Keller | |



Ash Wednesday Services to be Held “As Usual”

Well, not quite. Yes, we will have Ash Wednesday services at 7:00 p.m. on February 17. But, it will be by Zoom. We will use the same link, call-in number, pass code, etc. that we use for Sunday Services. Jen Meckes and her Team will prepare ashes for all who wish to have them. Ashes sufficient for 2-3 people will be available on an oil-moistened Q-tip in a small plastic bag. You can pick up your ashes at Advent Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Feb. 15-17. Call JoAnn to make arrangements 440-871-6685. She can leave the ashes in bags outside the side door entrance to the Parish Hall for after-hours pick up. Then, during the Service, you can apply the ashes to your forehead during the time Paul is doing so during the Zoom service. This will be a Lent like we’ve not experienced in recent times. The Lord is in control!

Morning Prayer Service on Sunday, February 7, In Lieu of Holy Eucharist

As of Monday morning, Paul is feeling fine even though he was in close proximity last week with his granddaughters who both contracted COVID. Paul was COVID tested Monday morning but has not yet received his results. So, on Monday, not knowing about his in-person availability on Sunday and out of an abundance of caution for those in the sanctuary during our Zoom services (Paul, Dar, Ray and Dick) we decided to use Morning Prayer as the order of worship rather than Holy Eucharist. Thus, Paul will again preach the sermon and read the Gospel from his home, like we did last Sunday.

For those choosing to listen to the worship service on your phone, call 312 626 6799. You'll be asked to punch in the Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331, Participant Code: #, and Passcode: 988930. Simple, no fuss.

How Can We Care for One Another During COVID?

I've said very little about the impact of COVID on our parishioners and the Bishop's suspension of in-person services. It is important that each of us reach out in love to fellow parishioners: do such actions as call and check-in with one another; ask how you can pray for another; ask for prayers for yourself; pray for those recovering from COVID and their caregivers; pray for family members of those who have died from COVID; pray for folks isolated in nursing homes and retirement communities due to lockdowns; pray for folks experiencing soul-crushing isolation and lack of interaction with family and friends; pray that all are freed from anxiety.

One suggestion: pick a parishioner and call her/him/them this week. Then pick someone different next week. Develop a weekly discipline of reaching out. I can tell you from personal experiences that people are enormously uplifted by such acts of caring. We are a family!

Dick McCormick

Advent Worship Services and Resources Available Online

We record the Sunday 9:00 AM worship services and upload the video on Monday to Advent's website and Facebook page. We also upload Paul Laursen's Weekly Fasting and Prayer Mailer. We are uploading the Sunday Bulletin and each week's edition of our ADVENTures Newsletter on Thursday before the service on Sunday. Below are the links to them for January 17, 2021. On any future Monday you can go to <https://www.adventwestlake.org/blog/> and access these resources. Of course, we invite you to join us for the live service by Zoom on your PC, tablet or smartphone or via dial-in with any phone using the instructions elsewhere in this edition of ADVENTures.

<https://www.adventwestlake.org/2021/01/18/adventures-newsletter-january-17-2021/>
<https://www.adventwestlake.org/2021/01/18/fasting-prayer-january-17-2021/> and Facebook

<https://www.adventwestlake.org/2021/01/18/sermon-january-17-2021/> and Facebook