



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

Advent Episcopal Church ◊ 3760 Dover Center Road ◊ Westlake ◊ OH ◊ 44145
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February 14, 2021 The Last 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 Last Sunday after the Epiphany

A Glimpse of His Glory: Mark 9:2-9

Today's Gospel account comes six days after Jesus had just fed over four thousand people. At the end of that miracle, He had taught that if people were ashamed of Him and His teaching, that He would be ashamed of them when He would come with His Father's glory at the end of time. Then he declared that some of them would see that glory before they died.

It was now six days hence and that promise of seeing the glory of the Son of God was about to occur on what is believed to be Mount Hermon. This passage gives us a little glimpse of the glory we will see one day in the future.

We are told that Jesus selected Peter, James, and John for this special trip to the top of Mount Hermon. This wasn't the first time that Jesus singled these men out for a special time of ministry, nor would it be the last time. The first time Jesus singled these three men out was when Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, Mark 5:37.

He singled them out here. Jesus would also take these men "a little deeper" with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He went to the cross. These men were privileged to see things the other disciples never got to witness.

Now, we know that God has "no respect of persons", Rom. 2:11. That that He doesn't prefer one person above another because of any special merits that person may have. But some are simply closer to Him than others are. And those who are closer to Him will see more of His glory and more of His power than those who stay farther away. According to James 4:8, we are as close to God as we desire to be.

Do you ever wonder why some people seem so full of love for the Lord? Do you ever wonder why some people seem always ready to worship and praise Him? Do you ever wonder what their secret is? Those people have made up their minds to live close to Him. As a result, He has promised to live close to them. The outcome of that is the sweet presence of Jesus in their lives.

John and Peter later spoke of their life-changing mountain top experience with Jesus.

John 1:14 (NCV) *The Word became a human and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father—and he was full of grace and truth.*

2 Peter 1:16, 18 *When we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not telling just smart stories that someone invented. But we saw the greatness of Jesus with our own eyes....¹⁸ We heard that voice from heaven while we were with Jesus on the holy mountain.*

Let me encourage you to get as close to Him as John was at the last supper. John laid his head on the chest of the Lord Jesus. From that position, John could hear the Lord's heartbeat. He could feel His breathe on his head. He could feel the Lord's words. That is where I want to be!

My encouragement for you as we approach this Lenten season that you make it your decision to draw closer to the Lord. Seek a mountain top experience with Him.

Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, February 14

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, February 15

Tuesday, February 16

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 17 Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at Advent

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service via ZOOM

Thursday, February 18

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

Sunday, February 21

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=NWFxZVhnVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

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	Jerry Nagy
Bun Blossom		

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.

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!

LENT

Lent is the 6-week/40 day (excluding Sundays) period leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter, with the last week of Lent being called Holy Week. Lent is a time of sacrifice and remembrance as we remember when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. During this time Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist. On Ash Wednesday, we attend a service during which we are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a symbol of our recognition and admission of sin and our mortality.

Lent is a time of discipline, sacrifice and preparation. In lieu of giving up a favorite food, you may wish to consider a more meaningful discipline, such as adding a time of daily worship or devotion to your schedule. Reading your Bible or a devotional book each day, or special Lenten services, are appropriate Lenten disciplines. Paul's weekly Prayer and Fasting mailer is an excellent additional spiritual discipline – fasting, prayer, Bible study.

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](#)