



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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February 21, 2021 The First Sunday in Lent

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 in Lent

This week I want to reflect with you on the meaning and purpose of this season leading up to Holy Week and then Easter.

Moses said, *Deuteronomy 32:7 (NASB)* "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you.

Exodus 12:26-27 (NASB) "And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?'²⁷ you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshiped.

The events leading up to and including the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ have been remembered annually in a special, collective way by most of the Christian church throughout its history. The Lenten period is calculated to extend from Resurrection Sunday back for forty days, not including Sundays. Sundays are not included because they commemorate Christ's glorious resurrection on "the day after the Sabbath," "the first day of the week," "the Lord's day."

The forty days commemorate significant "forty" periods in Scripture, including the forty years the Jews wandered in the desert after they had been rescued by God from Egypt, and which did not end until they repented. Jonah preached to Nineveh that God's judgment would come on them in forty days. During that time, the people repented and thus were spared God's judgment. Jesus was tested by the Devil in the desert for forty days before He began His public ministry, announcing salvation to the repentant and judgment to those who continued to rebel against God.

Jesus prophesied that God's judgment would come against Israel for rejecting Him as Messiah within the time of His own generation (Matt. 24; Luke 21; Mark 13). Within forty years of His death, burial, and resurrection, Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was so ravaged that "not one stone [was] left here upon another" (Matt. 24:2). The Jewish Christians, however, escaped this judgment of God by fleeing to Pella before the final Roman siege, just as Jesus had warned them to do (Matt. 24:16-21).

Traditionally, those who are joining the church spend this period in special instruction regarding Christian doctrine and responsibility. Historically, prospective members didn't participate in the Lord's Supper until they were received into full membership on Resurrection Sunday. For them, this first experience of Ash Wednesday and Lent has special significance as God's eternal plan of salvation is applied to them personally.

The final week of Lent, **Holy Week**, commemorates the events immediately preceding the crucifixion. This is the most solemn time during the church year. **Maundy Thursday** recalls the final Passover Jesus celebrated as His Last Supper with His disciples. Maundy Thursday gets its name from a Latin anthem, the first line of which reads, "Mandatum novum do vobis," or "a new commandment I give to you" (John 13:34).

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Christ. Many churches conduct quiet services from noon until three (called **Tre Ore**, or "Three Hours"), focusing on the events of the crucifixion and the words of Jesus from the cross. As early as the second century A.D., Christians celebrated each Friday in remembrance of the crucifixion.

As we walk through this important season, I suggest that each of us prepare ourselves for an especially joyous Resurrection Sunday celebration! The Lord bless you this week.

Blessings on your week.

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, February 21

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, February 22

Tuesday, February 23

Wednesday, February 24

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 25

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

Sunday, February 28

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=NWFhZVh0VGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzZlZQT09](https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFhZVh0VGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzZlZQT09)

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		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	
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.

Good-bye Alleluia!

The solemn Season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, February 17, marking the departure of the word “Alleluia” in worship. “Alleluia” will return on Easter morning, April 4, as we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord!



News from John Crothall

John reports the following on www.mealtrain.com. "Hi everyone, We are now just past the halfway point in the initial phase of treatment--radiation, chemo and clinical trial drug--two weeks and 3 days to go, before 4 weeks total rest followed by another MRI scan & planning next phase of treatment. Daily radiation & chemo has been exhausting, and the mouthfuls of molted hair I wake up with every morning is disgusting, but at least evidence of radiation dosage strong enough to kill cancer cells! Anne and I are extremely grateful for the Meal Train meals that arrive on Wednesdays and Fridays. Thank you all so much for your thoughtfulness. God bless you all HUGELY. John."

If you choose to assist in providing them meals, go <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/1oge9z> and sign-up. Pray for the Great Healer to work healing miracles in John's life. And pray for stamina and faithfulness for Anne.

Dear Dick, Ray and the member of Advent;

Your prayers and the prayers of the people of Advent were answered in a miraculous way. Yesterday's heart catheterization showed no arterial blockages above 10%. And here's the miracle part of it: twelve years ago I had the same procedure which showed one arterial blockage of 30%, God has acted, and I am so thankful to have no serious concerns about plaque buildup.

Now comes the question of why my stress test showed abnormality.

Thank you all for my good outcome. God has heard your prayers and graciously answered them in a way far more than I could have hoped or imagined.

Peace be with you.

With a grateful heart,

Bun Blossom

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](#)