



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 28, 2021 The Second 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 Second Week in Lent

NO COMPROMISE...NO CONFORMITY!

Welcome to our second week of studying principles from the life and book of Daniel in the Old Testament. Our core passage for this week is Daniel 1: 8-16.

Today we begin with one of the major tests that Daniel and his three Hebrew friends were confronted with soon after they had been brought to the capital city of Babylon. It was clear that their lives were being changed completely.

Proverbs 17:3 (NLT2) Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

It is not unusual that our heart and lives are tested to confirm our faith. Our broken culture often wants us to conform, but the Holy Spirit seeks to confirm our faith. When tests come into our lives from the Lord, every aspect of who we are can be examined: our character, integrity, humility, generosity, loyalty, faithfulness, and truthfulness.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT2) For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts

Daniel's character is tested many, many times. Each time he passed the test God gives him with more influence, more power, and more insight. This is incredible to grasp, but Daniel is the only person in history besides John the Apostle who wrote the book of Revelation, that God told how the world is going to end. Daniel prophesied all kinds of things in history long before they ever occurred. It's in this book.

So, we see that passing the testing of the Lord leads to more responsibility as witnesses and servants of the Lord. I have definitely not passed all the exams that the Lord has put in my life. What happens then is we go around the mountain and we are tested again. This happened to the Israelites in the desert after departing from Egypt.

Back to Daniel. After being deported, the Hebrew young men are renamed after pagan gods. Daniel in Hebrew means God is my judge. He's renamed Belteshazzar which means Bel protects me. Bel was a pagan god of Babylon. Yet Daniel and his friends remained faithful to the God of Israel even though they lived in a thoroughly pagan culture.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NLT2) Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?

So, in conclusion, it matters what we say, how we live, to whom we listen. Our solid foundation for our decisions, for our priorities, needs to be the Word of God, who is Jesus Christ. We all struggle from time to time as Daniel did, but like him, we can expect the presence of the Lord in our life to strengthen and encourage us no matter what is happening around us.

The Lord Jesus bless you this week!
Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, February 28

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, March 1

Tuesday, March 2

Wednesday, March 3

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, March 4

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

Sunday, March 7

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](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/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	
Christina Laursen	

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.

Request from John and Anne Crothall

John is completing this week a series of radiation and chemo treatments. They are VERY appreciative of Meal Train meals provided to them during this time as well as other expressions of love and support. The doctors now prescribe a "rest period" of 4 weeks. So, they want to resume their normal meal planning/cooking practices that were in place prior to the treatments. Therefore, if you've signed up to provide Meal Train meals this coming week, great. Otherwise, for now, they'd like us to suspend Meal Train provisions. Keep praying for John, Anne, and all on Advent's prayer list.

Prayer from Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA

This evangelical, Bible-centric seminary publishes Lenten and Advent devotionals. Fr. Joe Maiocco got his MDiv. there and I've taken Bp Hollingsworth to the campus for a visit some years ago. I find their devotionals spiritually solid, practical, useful, and hopeful. Here is a prayer by The Rev. Bill Clarkson, a recent graduate. "Heavenly Father, may we keep our eyes focused on you throughout this Lenten season; not obsessing with the cares of this world, but rather looking forward to the celebration of the victory of Jesus Christ this Easter. Help us not to worry but to put our trust in you."

Extracts from the Monday Feb. 22, 2021 Lenten Devotional from Trinity School for Ministry

Andrew J. Nicewander is currently an MDiv student at Trinity. His writing style is refreshing and provocative in a constructive sort of way. See what I mean. "God is in the eternally audacious business of subverting expectations. He raised a savior for his people in a Levite baby, found in a pitch-coated papyrus basket along the banks of the Nile, and raised by an Egyptian princess in Pharaoh's own house. He called unto himself smelly fishermen and wild-eyed zealots, hated tax-collectors and pathetic ragamuffins to serve him in a world that despises him. He dined with sinners and conversed with prostitutes. He works in and through bigots and rebels, legalists and malcontents, and even Democrats and Republicans. He is a lion, after all, who does as he wishes, and while he is not safe, he is good. He chose to make himself known in his incarnation through a simple Jewish maiden, revealed to gentle magi and announced to sheep-herding derelicts. He lived a humble life as a carpenter's son and itinerant rabbi, only to be put to death on an old rugged Roman cross, thirsty and baking beneath the scorching middle-eastern sun – forlorn, bereft, and completely alone. It was not a silent night and was not a pretty death. Yet this God is the same God who sought to gather the lonely, subjugated, rebel children of Jerusalem under his wings and who provided a way, through his incarnation, life, death, burial, and resurrection to allow us to find relationship with the Creator in a way that makes even the angels gasp in scandalized praise. So, this Lent, may God subvert our expectations on what grace might look like, for, 'we have had more than enough of contempt' (Psalm 123:3)"

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](#)