



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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

March 4, 2021 The Third Sunday in Lent

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

At Advent

Worship is scheduled for Sunday at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM. See notes on page 4 for March 21, when we will resume in-person worship!

Favor With the King

Daniel 1:17-21 (NCV)

¹⁷ *God gave these four young men wisdom and the ability to learn many things that people had written and studied. Daniel could also understand visions and dreams.*

¹⁸ *At the end of the time set for them by the king, Ashpenaz brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked to them and found that none of the young men were as good as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So those four young men became the king's servants.*

²⁰ *Every time the king asked them about something important, they showed much wisdom and understanding. They were ten times better than all the fortune-tellers and magicians in his kingdom!*

²¹ *So Daniel continued to be the king's servant until the first year Cyrus was king.*

As we study the passage from Daniel for this week, it is evident to me that Daniel and his three friends were distinguished among all the younger deportees from Israel. Just those four became the servants of Nebuchadnezzar. Because they had chosen to stay away from that which was unclean according to God's Word through Moses, they were blessed and as a result found favor with the king.

There were thousands of others who also lived their life in Babylon, but only a few found such special roles for their lives. Daniel and his friends served the king, but because of their faithfulness they also were able to serve the King of Kings in a hostile culture.

As we work our way through Lent, it is evident that there are aspects of our culture that are also hostile, but our focus needs to be on whose we are and upon His Word. In one way, the four young men in Babylon were owned by the king, however because of their walk of integrity, they were able to rise above their situation in life and live at a higher level. Each of us have challenges that we face. Challenges in our health, dealing with difficult relationships, work-related tensions, yes even financial ones brought about because of the pandemic. The key is not the challenge, what is central is our response as well as our attitude in our response.

We are called to live as witnesses of an unseen kingdom sometimes in the midst of darkness. That is where the Holy Spirit, that Jesus promised to send to His people comes in, to strengthen and to encourage us in our daily walk.

John 14:18 (NASB) *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

John 14:23 (NASB) *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.*

This is an incredible promise. As we trust in the Lord like Daniel and his three friends did, we can expect that heaven will intervene in our lives with the strength that we need to walk through into victory in our lives no matter what the circumstances are that we are facing today, or will face down the road!

The Lord Jesus bless you this week with His peace.

Pastor Paul Laursen

Remember to change your clocks Saturday night! Daylight Savings Time starts March 14!

This Week at Advent

Sunday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, March 8

Tuesday, March 9

Wednesday, March 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, March 11

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

Sunday, March 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=NWFkZVh0VGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

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	
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.

March Birthdays

4 Rob Meriam	20 Khoa Evans
6 Barbara Gibel	27 Jason Evans
11 Dick McCormick	Pat Perris
12 Mary Lou Dixon	28 Marcia Duennes
17 Steven Boyce	30 Susan Boyce
19 Ray Busony	





Easter Flowers

Order forms for Easter flowers are included in today's bulletin. The flowers will adorn the altar for Easter. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. If you wish to purchase and donate a plant in memory or honor of a loved one, or in thanksgiving, please fully complete the order form (please print), and put it in the offering plate, with cash or a check made payable to Advent and put *Easter Flower* on the memo line.

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](#)



LENT

Good News! In-Person Worship Services Resume on March 21!

We are excited to look forward to this milestone! Commencing March 21, 2021 we'll resume with one service at 9:00 a.m.— perhaps we'll return to 2 services but for now let's come together for one. It will be wonderful to see everyone live! JoAnn will continue emailing and snail mailing bulletins and ADVENTures. We're planning to also simulcast via Zoom but those logistics are still being worked out. We'll have one person serving as acolyte, reading the lessons and prayers of the people, and assisting Paul.

Some will choose not to worship in-person. That is understandable and totally an individual decision to be honored, respected, and not judged. Grace needs to abound for those who choose not to come by those who do, and vice versa. God's grace is His unmerited favor toward us. He calls us to extend such unmerited favor to others. Let's continue to do so during these challenging times.

We'll continue with the now-common protocols we used last year and adapted for Zoom, as follows:

Ushers wear masks and gloves and take everyone's temperature upon entering. Those with a temperature over 100°F are not to enter Advent and should immediately go home.

All entering wear a mask. Masks are available when necessary and are worn during the service.

We are not singing corporately but Dar will sing solo.

Hand sanitizers are available at the door and in the pews.

Everyone maintains 6 ft. distances.

Every 2 pew rows are marked as unavailable to maintain 6 ft. between available pews.

Family members from the same household sit together in available pews.

Jason sanitizes after our services and after the Wed. evening Praise Community services.

The following are guidelines we will follow during Holy Eucharist:

1. All involved in preparation and celebration will wear masks and thoroughly wash hands before handling elements and vessels.
2. Paul will set the table and be the only person to stand at it for the Great Thanksgiving. There will be no acolyte or chalice bearer.
3. Paul will handle the elements, and only after thoroughly cleansing his hands with sanitizer. This is what he has been doing.
4. Only Paul will consume the "Priest Host" and the wine.
5. Baptized communicants may consume the wafers brought to the table for consecration.
6. Communicants will not receive the wine, only Paul.
7. Distribution will be in front of the altar. We will not kneel at the altar rail.
8. Ushers will release communicants from pews row by row as normal.
9. Communicants will come forward individually and in single file, wearing masks, and practicing safe distancing of at least 6 feet.
10. Paul will place the consecrated wafer into the open hand of the communicant.
11. The communicant may either:
 - lift the mask, consume the sacrament, replace the mask, and return to the pew, providing as much safe distancing as possible, or
 - leave the mask in place, receive the wafer, return to the pew, and commune the wafer in the pew.

During this Lent as we look ahead to Palm Sunday and Easter, pray that the peace of God will prevail in the hearts of our congregants. Praise the Lord for sustaining us with His grace during these anxious and uncertain times. It's time to move forward, with our lives and our corporate worship.

Peace,
Dick