



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=episcopal+diocese+of+albany

Welcome to Advent Episcopal Church and may God bless your worship today!

This week Dick McCormick has asked me to include a brief version of last Sunday's sermon.

DANIEL: RESPONDING REDEMPTIVELY TO MAJOR CHALLENGES - DANIEL 2

Dan. 2:10-11 (MSG) Nobody can do what you ask!...What you're asking is impossible...

Daniel took key steps when he was faced with an impossible assignment, to interpret the King's dream. If he didn't, he and his friends would be executed. He's only 17 years old. So, what do you do when you're facing a major challenge? You don't have the ability, you don't have the wisdom. Look today at 3 steps Daniel took when his life was on the line; these steps can be useful for us as well.

1. Don't Panic & Don't Fear.

Daniel had a legitimate reason to be worried. *Daniel 2:14* Then Daniel replied with discretion & discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon.

The most powerful man on the planet has ordered his assassination. He didn't panic. He wasn't afraid.

Advent right now is facing an unexpected, disappointing situation; Father Ben has declined our call as rector.. I'm suggesting that we can learn from Daniel how to face such a situation in a redemptive positive way. What I am sharing from Daniel, will work in other areas of your life when you were faced with really challenging situations. First don't panic and don't fear.

2. Listen 1st & Discover all the Facts.

Dick has shared facts from Father Ben's perspective....That's all we know for sure. The Lord loves Advent & its lampstand much more than Father Ben or even you. When somebody asks you to do the impossible or face a really challenging situation, You need to get all the facts involved. My normal style: React...often unwisely.

1 Chronicles 12:32 NLT From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe w. their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times & knew the best course for Israel to take. We need this wisdom, knowing what to do.

Daniel 2:15 Daniel asked Arioch, 'Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?' So, Arioch told him all that had happened. King Nebuchadnezzar was furious, clearly afraid. He's had a recurring nightmare & now he's just kind of vomiting his fear out on everybody else.

Proverbs 23:23(LB) Get the facts at any price Don't rush to respond; Don't make a major decision just on emotion. Feelings lie – they change.

3. Take Time To Pray & Thank The Lord.

In a major challenge, the 1st temptation is to be impulsive. If you're in a car accident, when you get out of that car, you're not thinking rationally, you may respond emotionally. We don't want to rush to an impulsive decision. It's more important to make the right decision than to make a fast decision. The best decision right now isn't to react, but to trust the Lord. Step back -Talk to God.

Dan. 2:16 (NASB) So Daniel went in & requested of the king that he would give him a grace period, so that he might declare the interpretation to the king. The king has ordered his assassination. What does he do? He immediately goes to see the king. If you had cancer, time isn't going to make you better. Prayer is both preparation and warfare.

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This Week at Advent

Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, March 29

Tuesday, March 30

Wednesday, March 31

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, April 1 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 2 Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 4 EASTER

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Server Schedule Today, March 28

9:00 a.m.

Assistant Denise Geyer-Keller

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Prayers of the People Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 6)

Ushers Jim Edwards

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (3/29)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Server Schedule Holy Week

8:00 a.m. Assistant

4/4 Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m. Assistant

3/28 Denise Geyer-Keller (9:00 a.m.)

4/1 Denise Geyer-Keller (7:00 p.m.)

4/2 Dick McCormick (7:00 p.m.)

4/4 Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m. Lector

4/1 Denise Geyer-Keller

4/2 Dick McCormick

4/4 Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People

4/1 Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 2)

4/4 Dick McCormick (Form 3)

Ushers

4/1 Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

4/2 Jim Edwards & Max Gage

4/4 Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer

4/4 Ray Busony

Close Advent

4/1 Ray Busony

4/2 Peter Meckes

4/4 Ray Busony

Counter

4/5 Anne Crothall

4/12 Anne Crothall

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

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.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Invite your family and friends!

Sunday, March 28 **Palm Sunday:**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 1 **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 12 **Good Friday**

“Stations of the Cross” 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 4 **Easter Sunday:**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



HOLY WEEK

Fr. Ben Randall Will Not Be Shepherding Advent

I made a trip to his home in Tennessee to meet face-to-face and to discuss openly and transparently whether he and his family had a future with our Advent family. He and Rebekah had prayed extensively about whether to accept our call, to relocate the family from Tennessee to NE Ohio, and to re-vision and revitalize Advent. A key determining factor in their decision was the large deficit in our 2021 budget approved at the Annual Meeting were he to come this June. The fact that Advent would have a cash reserve to cover only about 1 ½ years placed too much pressure on him, and us. Achieving break-even financial viability by the end of 2022 when we estimate our cash would run out is a steep hill to climb. Ray and I labored long and hard about our moral responsibilities regarding his coming. On behalf of the entire Advent family, we are disappointed with this decision. But, Ray and I are at peace that this is the right decision for them and for Advent. Now what? The vestry discussed this matter at last Tuesday's meeting. I believe the Holy Spirit has been covering this situation with Fr. Ben and more broadly this season in Advent's life. The Fr. Ben door is closed. There may be other doors opening to us. For now, we ask your continued prayers that the Lord will reveal, in His time, our next steps. As we pray every Sunday, *"Open us to what you have for our future as a new church family in Christ."*

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. Since the 4th century AD, Palm Sunday has been observed by processions and the blessing of palm leaves (symbolizing our Lord's victory over sin and death) to recall Christ's royal entry into Jerusalem over a carpet of clothing and branches thrown before him by the crowds. Holy Week is so important in the life of the Church that, whenever possible, the Holy Eucharist is observed every day, except Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Before we mourn our Lord's death and burial on those last two days of Holy Week, the Church does not celebrate on those days the greatest and most joyous of all the Christian acts of worship – the Holy Eucharist.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the commandments that Jesus gave to his followers on the evening of the Last Supper. "Maundy" comes from the Latin term "mandatum," meaning "command." On that night, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and commanded His followers to continue that act in remembrance of Him until His return, and to love one another, as He had loved them.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday was once known as "Black Friday" because we mourn on that day Christ's death on the cross. Because of the good we derive from His crucifixion, the day became known as "Good Friday."

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

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In addition to your own prayer, ask for prayer support from your friends. The king is off his rocker. He's about to kill all of his advisors.

Daniel 2:17-18 Then Daniel went home & told his 3 friends Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah...what had happened...Pray that the God who rules from heaven will be merciful & explain this mystery, so that we & the other advisors won't be put to death. Prayer helps us to stop looking at the impossible challenge & start looking at a God who never changes. This's what Daniel did. Remember our Prayer & Fasting Initiative that we started last summer; let's continue to join together in prayer for Advent!

Daniel 2:19 During the night God revealed & explained the mystery of the dream to Daniel in a vision.

Daniel 2:25-26 Then Arioch rushed Daniel to the king & he said, 'I have found one of the captives from Judah, who can tell you your dream & the meaning of it.

Expect that the Lord hears your prayer & answers. It's not dependent upon your logic, your wisdom, your talent. It isn't going to happen unless God does it. You need the Lord's help when you don't have the answers. Pray & expect God to give you supernatural help.

Here's a fascinating sub-point. Daniel was in Babylon. Jeremiah the prophet lived in Israel at the same time & knows what's going on in Babylon. Daniel read Jeremiah's letters. **Jeremiah 33:3** Call to me & I'll answer you, & I'll show you marvelous & wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own!

That's exactly what Daniel needs. He could guess for a 1,000 years & never guess the king's dream. God doesn't respond to our whining; he's never moved by our complaining. But He moves instantly when we have faith. He moves when you expect Him to.

James 1:5-7 If you need wisdom, ask God, & he will gladly give it to you. He won't resent you asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

You thank God in advance. That's called faith. If you thank God after the fact, that's called gratitude. Thank you Lord that you're hearing me & that you will deal w this; Faith & gratitude.

Daniel 2:27-30 No wise man or psychic or fortune teller or astrologer can explain the mystery of your dream. But there is a God in Heaven.

CONCLUSION

The Lord is the head of His church.... The Lord established His church, denominations don't, people don't.

Revelation 1:16, 20 (NLT2) In His right hand He held seven stars, & out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; & His face was like the sun shining in its strength....This is the meaning of the mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand & the seven gold lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, & the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

The seven churches in Revelation had angels overseeing them. Advent has angelic protection because the Lord of the church loves us, who are called the Body of Christ! Amen.

Update of Lois Zolar

Lois was admitted to St. John's this past week with renal failure. She has since been transferred to: Pleasant View Villa
7377 Ridge Road
Cleveland, OH 44129
440-590-0646

She would appreciate cards, calls and visitors.

