



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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

April 18, 2021 The Third Sunday of Easter

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!

Luke 24:36-49

This week's gospel takes us again to the early time after Jesus' resurrection when the disciples were still trying to deal with and integrate the impact of what it meant for them.

They believed, but what happened really and what did it mean? Jesus needed to meet with them and teach them. Slowly he did that as He led them through the Old Testament promises that spoke of Him. This was exactly what Jesus had already done on the Emmaus Road conversation with two of the disciples.

Faith is the issue here. Faith is not belief in spite of evidence. If we choose not to believe, it is not for lack of evidence. Yet, the reality for people in this life is doubt as with the disciples, there is doubt or a lack of complete understanding.

People in those days generally believed that the souls of the dead were able to roam the earth. There was a great fear of ghosts. However, it was unthinkable that a dead person could make bodily appearances. Yet that is exactly what Jesus did: with his glorified body he appears to Mary Magdalene, to Peter, to the Emmaus disciples, and to the group that has assembled here. When we reconstruct this scene,

We add from John the detail that the doors were locked for fear of the Jews, so that no one could enter the room without first knocking and being admitted.

From Mark we learn that the disciples were reclining on their couches at supper, and that the meal was apparently about ended. All those who are in the room are engaged in animated conversation about "these things" that had been reported by Simon and by the two disciples from Emmaus.

Then all in an instant Jesus himself "stood among them in their midst. Since Jesus is in His risen and glorified state, time, space, the rock of the tomb, the walls and the doors of buildings no longer hamper the body of Jesus.

He appears where He desires to appear, and His visible presence disappears when he desires to have it so. Jesus did not walk through anything.

As Jesus teaches from the Old Testament, the disciples remembered them and now see them fulfilled and are at last able to understand them. They now stand out for the disciples as being the mighty prophecies of Jesus. Jesus is no longer present in his earthly form, but he commissions the apostles to continue and extend his earthly ministry.

Faith in Jesus is not closing our minds to evidence and the truth around us. It is opening up the scriptures to better understand the workings of God, the wonderful fulfillments of Christ, receiving words of comfort and guidance for today as well as a sure hope in the promises of God for the future.

When we proclaim the truths of the resurrection they may not be immediately understood or responded to in faith. It may take someone to follow us to further explain them, it may require the hearer to contemplate them. Our job is not to guess if someone will respond in faith but to sow the seeds and let God determine the harvest time. Faithful obedience is never in vain.

Blessings on your week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, April 18

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, April 19

Tuesday, April 20

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, April 21

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 22

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

Sunday, April 24

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Server Schedule Today, April 18

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Denise Geyer-Keller

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Prayers of the People Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 5)

Ushers Max Gage

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (4/19)

Close Advent Max Gage

Server Schedule April 24

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Kathleen Huffman

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 6)

Ushers Peter Meckes

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (4/25)

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

Note: It is your responsibility to contact another volunteer directly to take your place. Please call the office with all changes. Thank you.

April Birthdays

6 Barb Frank
Scott Medley
7 Bun Blossom

20 Kylie Bunn
21 Bunny Meriam
25 Arianna Evans



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
Dave Luptak	Roger Luptak	Liz Urbas
John & Anne Crothall		Gus Cratcha
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	
Julie and Ray Coy	
Residents of Pinzone Tower	
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthea Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	
Christina Laursen	
Joyce Meitin	

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.

Extracts from Bishop Love's Letter to the Presiding Bishop

"I have come to believe that the Lord is now releasing me from any further ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church. I therefore resign from the House of Bishops and request to be released and removed from the ordained Ministry of The Episcopal Church.

I have struggled greatly over the last several years with many of the new theological understandings of The Episcopal Church, particularly in regard to TEC's ever-increasing progressive views concerning human sexuality, same-sex marriage and the authority of God's Holy Word as revealed in the Scriptures.

I have taken seriously my call as a bishop, to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church, and to celebrate and to provide for the faithful administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant. By God's grace I have tried to serve as a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.

It had been my hope and prayer, that there would always be a genuine place in The Episcopal Church for theologically conservative and orthodox Christians to worship and serve God, allowing them to remain faithful to their understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture over our lives.

The passage of B012 and my subsequent conviction by the Hearing Panel clearly shows "there is no place in this branch of the church" for theologically conservative and orthodox bishops to uphold the traditional understanding of marriage as that between one man and one woman as clearly revealed by God in Holy Scripture and taught by the Church for over 2000 years.

The views I hold on these issues are not unique to me. They are shared by thousands of faithful theologically conservative and orthodox Christians (lay and ordained) who are still worshipping in The Episcopal Church, as well as the vast majority of the world-wide Anglican Communion and wider Body of Christ. It greatly saddens me to think that a Church that advertises itself as being diverse, inclusive and welcoming, fails to appreciate the importance and necessity of the theologically conservative voice in the Church, and seems intent on either silencing or driving anyone who shares those theological understandings out of The Episcopal Church.

The current political and social agenda and political correctness influencing the Church, has caused it to lose its way, negatively impacting the Church's ability to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a cradle Episcopalian and Christian, it has broken my heart to see the rapid decline of the Church over the past several years. At its best, The Episcopal Church has so much to offer the wider body of Christ, unfortunately, it is currently far from its best. It doesn't have to be this way. Presiding Bishop, I urge you and my fellow Bishops and leadership of the Church to return to your roots before it is too late – return to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In so doing, God will bless the Church and use the Church to be a blessing to the world around us, sharing the true love of Christ with ALL people."

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=NWFEXZVhnVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQ0T09>

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