



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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April 25, 2021 The Fourth 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!

THE GOOD SHEPHERD John 10:11-16

The image of the shepherd is a major part of Jesus' heritage and culture. Abraham, the father of the nation, was the keeper of great flocks. Moses was tending the flocks of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt into freedom through the Red Sea experience. David was a shepherd called in from the fields to be the King of Israel.

When Isaiah spoke of the coming of the Messiah he said: "He will feed his flock like a shepherd! He will gather his lambs into his arms." These pictures come more clearly into focus in the New Testament. Jesus told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep, but one of them went astray. He left the 99 to go in search of that one lost sheep. Later, when Jesus was speaking to a great throng of people, Mark tells us that he had compassion upon them because they were "as sheep without a shepherd."

In this week's Gospel Jesus again taps in on this imagery when he refers to himself as the good shepherd. He said: here are two shepherds. Outwardly there seems to be no difference. The skin of both has been bronzed by the sun. They both carry a fleece to keep them warm at night. Both carry a shepherd's crook. But one is a genuine shepherd and the other is a counterfeit. One is a shepherd in his heart; the other is a shepherd for hire.

On an ordinary day you could never tell them apart. But let trouble come and you will see the difference. The counterfeit runs because it is only money to him. He has no ownership. But the real shepherd stays. Jesus said in our text: I lay down my life for my sheep. That is the difference between the real shepherd and the counterfeit.

Certainly, to us, there is nothing contradictory about the term, good shepherd. In the ancient world shepherds were looked upon often as gypsies are looked upon in some parts of Europe today. They were dirty, thieves. So despised were shepherds that under Jewish law, a shepherd could not be a witness in a trial. They were notorious liars.

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Lay down your life for a worthless animal! It hardly seems reasonable. That is, until we remember that we are the sheep that he is talking about. We are the worthless ones. It is called atonement--the shedding of one's blood on behalf of another who doesn't deserve it.

Blessings on your week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, April 25

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

Monday, April 26

Tuesday, April 27

Wednesday, April 28

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 29

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

Sunday, May 2

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

Server Schedule Today, April 25

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 (4/26)

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

Server Schedule May 2

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 2)

Ushers Max Gage

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (5/3)

Close Advent Max Gage

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

Advent's First Quarter Financials Are Strong

Your faithfulness continues to shine! After 3 months into 2021 your tithes and offerings of \$36,600 are ahead of our 2021 budget. In fact, they are ahead of last year's budget and actuals for the same period. Wonderfully, 2021 expenses are also \$2,000 less than budget giving us a surplus of \$5,500. This is evidence of your committed support of the life of Advent and our worship and teachings. What a blessing you are for your responsible stewardship. One of David's last prayers from 1 Chronicles 29:14 says "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." You continue to answer our prayers. Thank you for your financial dependability.

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	
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.