



# ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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**June 13, 2021 The Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=episcopal+diocese+of+albany](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's Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

Mark's Gospel contains few parables. This passage concludes an extended string of them, beginning in Mark 3:23. Taken together, this collection of parables creates the context for experiencing Jesus' continuing ministry as the first steps of the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth and leading up to Calvary.

Mark introduces two parables in Mark 4:26-32. The parables illuminate aspects of God's reign. In both stories, Jesus speaks about seeds that point to God's new order that will take root and eventually come to fruition.

No other Gospel contains this parable. Jesus teaches about seeds and what they naturally do. They grow and produce without our help or our intricate knowledge of germination or photosynthesis.

The Kingdom of God will take root and grow gradually and even automatically. It will grow perhaps so subtly that you won't even notice, until at last it produces its intended fruit. The inevitability and mystery of the seed's maturation into a plant that eventually is harvested provide a vital counterpoint to the most famous parable that dominates Mark 4, a parable about sowing seeds in various soils. In that parable, so many seeds fail to bear fruit that one might question if the Kingdom will indeed be established.

Likewise, as the disciples stumble throughout Mark, one might worry that the wrong people have been entrusted with access to divine knowledge. This simple parable offers a reassurance in the face of such concerns: it is the nature of God's reign to grow and to manifest itself.

These two parables exercise an important function when Mark creates a crisis of confidence among its readers. The parables declare that the reign of God will not remain secretive forever, nor does its ultimate emergence depend on humanity's ingenuity, social engineering, moral virtue, or even spiritual cleverness.

It bears mentioning that Mark's outlook on the reign of God does not endorse a passive stance on our part. While there is something inevitable about God's deliverance, Mark calls Jesus Followers to be active as witnesses to what the Lord is doing on earth and in their lives.

The Markan parables do not promise a gospel of unhindered *progress*, as if God's reign is guaranteed to be more prevalent and influential ten years from now than it was ten years ago. But the parables do declare that the new order Jesus declares through his words and deeds will not be relegated to certain spheres. With its seeds carried by the wind and stuck to hikers' shoelaces, it will grow where it will.

The reign of God does not carve out a separate sacred space; it claims all aspects of human existence. There is no gospel that dismisses the importance of interpersonal relationships. All of this to say that The Kingdom of God is growing in our world and will continue to grow. We are a part of its growth by the way we live, by the way we pray, by the way we speak. In spite of all the challenges we face, the Gospel is growing and will ultimately fill the whole earth at Jesus' return.

Blessings on you and those you care about this week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

## This Week at Advent

### Sunday, June 13

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

### Monday, June 14

5:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out

### Tuesday, June 15

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

### Wednesday, Jun 16

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, June 17

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, Jun 20 Father's Day

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

## Server Schedule Today, June 13

### 8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick  
Acolyte Kylie Bunn

### 10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 3)

Usher Peter Meckes

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (6/14)

Close Advent Peter Meckes

## Server Schedule June 20

### 8:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

### 10:00 a.m.

Assistant Dick McCormick

Lector Dick McCormick

Prayers of the People Dick McCormick (Form 4)

Usher Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Anne Crothall (6/121)

Close Advent Ray Busony

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

## Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out will be returning! Please join us on Monday, June 14, 5:00 p.m. at Arrabiata Italian Restaurant, 600 Dover Center Road. 440-835-9100. Please let Marilyn Decker know if you can attend at 440-779-8834 or see her at church. Hope you can make it.

## Prayer Request

### Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Joan Joye	Gus Cratcha
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		
Richard Ward Jr		

### Friends of Advent

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma	Fr. Richard Lutz
Ken Wood Jim Johnson	Betty Clark
Eliza Jennings residents	Bill Liptak
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	
Carolyn Kay, cousin of Jan Nagy	

### 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

## Zoom Invitation

This is a recurring invitation for worship services at 10:00 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>

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

## **THE COMING KING: A Study of Revelation by Dr. Charles Stanley Will Return in September**

It has certainly been a long road. The last Bible Study was held on March 8, 2020. Advent had one service on March 15, 2020 for Confirmation and Baptism with Bishop Love and then the directive to suspend in person worship and all associated programs occurred. With God's grace society is slowly returning to normal!

Advent began the study of the Book of Revelation with a 31 part CD series led by Dr. Charles Stanley. Dr. Stanley is a Baptist pastor and is the founder and president of In Touch Ministries. With detailed insight he has been guiding us through complex Bible passages and along the way interjects questions (or 'food for thought') to us all. When we return to Bible Study we will begin at part 14 "The Final Witness", with Dr. Stanley reminding us that 'God is a covenant keeping God'. At the conclusion of part 14, he states that 'when you trust Him as your personal Savior-once you are saved by the grace of God, you are saved forever! This is part of the Promise of God. This is not conditional, not negotiable; it's a promise of God!' It is these types of insights that demystify the Book of Revelation and enable a deeper understanding of this complex Bible chapter.

Please plan on attending at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays between the two services. You do not need to have been at any of our previous Revelation Bible studies. As we get closer to September there will be further articles posted in Adventures. We look forward to seeing you! May God's abundant blessings be upon each of us!

## Relaxation of COVID Restrictions

Effective June 2, in accordance with Governor DeWine guidance, we will no longer recommend wearing masks nor maintaining social distancing during our worship services and other meetings. It is an individual's decision whether to continue such protocols or whether to dispense with them. No judgment one way or the other. Singing can happen "maskless". We will resume receiving communion wafers from the altar rail however the consecrated wine will be consumed only by Paul. We'll "pass the peace" in ways each person feels comfortable – fist-bumping, handshaking, waving, etc. – while respecting and taking a cue from the other person's behavior. In-person meetings, Bible studies, birthday/anniversary celebrations, celebration of graduation, fellowship activities, baptisms, etc. resume consistent with the above. Ushers can hand out bulletins at the doors into the sanctuary. The hearing assist aids are available from the ushers. Zoom access will continue to be offered for the 10:00 a.m. service via PC, tablet, and smartphone. Welcome back!