



ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ♦ 3760 Dover Center Road ♦ Westlake ♦ OH ♦ 44145
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December 28, 2025 The First Sunday after Christmas

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

You should be smiling.
You should have a warmth in your heart.
Things should feel more peaceful.
It's Christmas, after all.
But you hurt.
The twinkling lights don't dim the heaviness that seems to be settling over you.
Your soul is heavy and joy feels far.
It doesn't feel like the most wonderful time of the year.
Friend, You aren't "doing" Christmas wrong.
Not at all.
Because the truth is, we can't separate Christmas from suffering.
We often focus on the manger for Christmas, but we can just as much focus on the cross. The cross that was designed and designated for that little innocent baby before time began.
Christ came into this broken world because of sin and suffering.
He didn't come to take all the suffering away on this side of heaven. But He did come to show us that we are never alone in our suffering, and that no one will empathize with us more than our God.
I know there are times we can't simply fake a smile and fake happiness. Even on Christmas.
I don't think you need to.
We can feel the weight of suffering in humanity, we can hurt, AND we can know that this isn't all of it.
We can rejoice that pain is temporary while making space to grieve.
We can't separate the manger from the cross.
It's heartbreakingly beautiful.
Life is heartbreakingly beautiful.
Christmas knows suffering. Jesus knows suffering.
But Christmas is also the promise of suffering one day ending.
Because a baby was born in a manger, knowing His destiny was the cross.

~Kelli Bachara

Note from the Morgan's:

Thinking of y'all as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and remembering all the joyful times from the past at Advent. Our daily prayers are with you and we wish you all the blessings of Christmas! Happy New Year, too!

Love, Sally & Jack

Ladies Night Out:

Nita Ritchie will be organizing future monthly ladies dinners and lunches out, in honor of dear Marilyn. Our 1st lunch will be Monday, 1/5 @ 11:30 a.m.

Olive Garden~25984 Lorain Rd~

North Olmsted~

Contact Nita's cell/text: 619 985 6482 or see her at church, if you can attend.

This Week at Advent

Sunday, December 28

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

Wednesday, December 31

Thursday, January 1

Office Closed New Year's Day

Sunday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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 from this transmittal link.

Peace be with you!

There are no changes, just the same info in an abbreviated format. **These are not new, just shortened.**

Join Advent Service via Zoom from PC or tablet

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFhZVhnVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQz1ZQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

From your smartphone, dial 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

Server Schedule Today, December 28

8:00 a.m.

Assistant Anne Meldrum

10:00 a.m.

Assistant Denise Geyer-Keller

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Prayers of the People Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 3)

Usher Jason Evans

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Counter Gary Conaway (12/29)

Close Advent Ray Busony

Server Schedule January 4

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 Max Gagee

Intercessory Prayer Bill Benedict

Counter Gary Conaway (1/5)

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.