



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

April 2021

The Light of Christ. Thanks Be to God.

My husband Charlie and I flew to New Zealand on a typical spring day. Low clouds draped over the Southern Alps, and below the lofty peaks that poked out of the froth we witnessed a display that seemed primeval. A mountain was reshaped as an avalanche ripped off a whole section and water spurted out in a 1000-foot cascade. The over-used word “awesome” seemed to properly describe the sight, and continued to be the operative word as we drove around much of the South Island. We were scared rather than awed when a chunk of road fell into the valley way below us and we had to slam on brakes to keep the car from tumbling down with it.

New Zealand is a stunningly beautiful place that was being formed dramatically before our eyes. We were conscious of being on unstable ground except when we were in towns or on flat land. So, I don't know why we decided to go see the glow worms; but, as soon as there was no turning back, it was obvious that in our enthusiasm for adventure we had ignored good judgment.

In order to see the glow worms we had to take a rather small boat across a large choppy lake at dusk. Upon arriving on the nearly dark shore, the risks were plainly stated; but, at that point, we were determined to do what we had set out to do. We followed a guide to a cave that could be entered only on hands and knees. Once in, we were instructed to grab and hold onto a metal rail and put one foot in front of the other as we felt our way along a narrow ledge. We could see nothing but could hear and feel rushing water splashing below. We also could hear an occasional rock, or perhaps a boulder, fall into the water, bringing to mind the constant shifting of the island's terrain.

After about 30 feet of balance beam type maneuvers, we were directed to get through an opening about four feet high; and, when through it, dangle a foot off the ledge until we felt a tiny boat that we were to get in. Terrified of the prospect of missing the vessel altogether or capsizing it, Charlie and I willed ourselves into the wobbly thing. We found a chain just below the ledge that we used to pull the boat forward, wondering aloud

why we had thought this was something worth doing.

After a short while we saw a glimmer of light coming from a small opening ahead. Even though we knew that our bodies probably would have to be contorted and our courage tested again, we were eager to get to the light. We pressed on, bending double to get through the opening. When we sat up, we realized that we were wrapped in a lovely glow that came from thousands, maybe millions, of glow worms attached to the ceiling of the large cavern we had entered. As our eyes adjusted to the light and the glow worms adjusted to our presence, the light became brilliant. There are no words that adequately describe that dazzling show. Wonder took over, and we forgot to be afraid.

When it was time to leave, we made our way out with nary a thought about danger. We were giddy with excitement that eventually morphed into appreciation for the experience and what we already had figured out we had gained from it: gratitude for the grace of being alive and willingness to take on life with grit. Charlie and I had chosen to enter the cave, encountered unforeseen challenges moving through the dark, perilous place, and came away glad to be adventurers with high hopes for taking on what life has in store.

Should you find yourself headed into an unfamiliar place that seems foreboding and dark, should you know that dangerous currents rage about you, should the world you occupy seem to be caving in on you, things may seem less threatening when you can find your way through the dark and discover something about yourself along the way. What happens in the depths of the darkness can be life-giving, wondrously so, when part of a God-driven life. That does not diminish the fact that most of the time we are meant to live in the light where we can see and rejoice in God's good work in us and in others.



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Dark leading to light, gorgeous light, was exhilarating and so is the truth that self-discovery, intentional or unintentional, is pure gift. Even if a person intends to plumb one's unexamined interior depths, that person doesn't necessarily want to enter a dark stretch but coming out of darkness into light parallels journeys through Lent into Easter's promise of resurrected life. Jesus has illumined the way that leads to new life and redeemed us for it. Christ's light shines for us and for the whole world. It is a beacon for us to follow. It leads to God-given life, Spirit-filled life, into the life of God. We're in for a real adventure if we choose to follow where it leads.

Happy Easter!

+Connie



Maundy Thursday service begins at 6:00 p. m. The service follows the Proper Liturgy for Maundy Thursday found in the Book of Common Prayer and includes Spiritual Communion and concludes with the stripping of the altar.

The Proper Liturgy for **Good Friday** from the Book of Common Prayer begins at 6:00 p. m. The brief liturgy includes readings and prayers.



Volunteer polishers are needed to give the brass and silver an extra special glow to add to the joy and light of the Easter Day service.

Items needing attention will be found in the church kitchen after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday.

A checklist will be posted where volunteers can check off the items that have been cleaned and polished.

Brandon Woody can help you with any questions you might have.



Reminder to Vestry

The Vestry has changed its monthly meetings to the third Monday at 5:30 p. m.



**Evening Liturgy
Wednesday
April 14
6 P. M.**

EASTER

Easter Sunday begins with an invitation from Janice and Bobby Greene to the **Sunrise Service** at Green Acres around 6:30 to 6:45 a. m. The service includes scripture readings, prayers, meditations and songs.

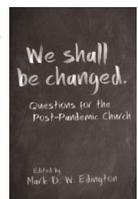
Chairs are provided. Worship continues at the Church of the Advent at 11:00 a. m. with a **Festal Spiritual Communion**.

Worshippers are invited to bring cut flowers for the **Flowering of the Cross**. The cross will be placed outside on the church porch and the flowering will be done as worshippers enter the church.

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death on Good Friday. The entire cross is covered with flowers and is placed prominently at the front of the church to symbolize the new life in our risen Lord to all the worshippers present on Easter Sunday morning. The contrast between the starkly bare cross that worshippers have seen for 40 days and the living flower cross of Easter Sunday dramatically and visually represents the new life that we are celebrating after witnessing the very instrument of death and endings transformed by Christ's rising.



Parishioners at Church of the Advent will soon be receiving a booklet entitled *We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church*, a series of essays edited by Mark D. W. Edington.



“How will we regather the church after the pandemic? How will we change habits of isolation and regather the church? How will we manage the impact on church finances? How is God calling us to embrace the energy and creativity of this moment—and the longing people have felt for a return to community? What challenges will we face regathering the people of God, particularly in already weakened communities?”

The booklet is designed to spur conversation within parishes, fellowship groups, and clergy gatherings about how to embrace the gifts this time has given while anticipating and addressing the very real challenges the church will confront in its wake.”

The booklet was sent to diocesan clergy by Bishop Skirving, who leads weekly Zoom meetings on Tuesdays with them using the booklet..

Rev. Connie plans to begin discussions first with the Vestry and then, with the Vestry, develop opportunities for discussions with parishioners.

The Prayer List is found in the notebook marked "Prayer Lists" on the usher's table in the narthex of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook or calling the church office after requesting permission of those for whom prayer is requested. The Prayer List is read aloud weekly at Sunday services. Contact the church office if you wish to have a name added, re-listed, or taken off the list.

Prayer List

Janice
Frankie
Betty
Norma
Jeremy
Chris
Bill & Nita
Lucia
Jackie
Lisa
Christian

Birthdays

3 ~ Diana
16 ~ Angi
16 ~ Virginia
17 ~ Douglas
18 ~ Rachel
23 ~ Amanda
23 ~ Standrick
25 ~ Bill
27 ~ Toussaint
29 ~ Jeannette



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

The Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge
Sunday-Tuesday, 9:30 a. m. –3:30 p. m.

Lucia Peel, Senior Warden
Don Beach, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choir Master

124 West Church Street
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Williamston, NC 27892
Telephone: 252.792.2244

Email: advent1850@gmail.com
www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 1 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm
April 2 Good Friday 6:00 pm
April 4 Holy Eucharist/Easter Sunday 11:00 am
April 11 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
April 14 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm
April 18 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
April 19 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
April 25 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
May 2 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
May 9 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
May 12 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm
May 16 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
May 17 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
May 23 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
May 30 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

The Church of the Advent is a nurturing, vibrant, and inclusive community inviting spiritual growth through liturgical worship, outreach, and fellowship.

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April 2021

Lay Schedule

	1 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> HE II 6:00 P.M.	4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> MP II 11:00 A.M.	11 <i>2 Easter</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.	18 <i>3 Easter</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.	25 <i>4 Easter</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.
MP Leader			Kit Reddick		
Lector	Chuck Cohen	John Price	Jane Jernigan	Ginny Webb	Valerie Cooke
Intercessor	Catherine Cohen	Lucia Peel		Bill Webb	Lucia Peel
Chalice Bearer					
Acolytes					
Altar Guild	Brandon Woody Lori Taylor				
Ushers	Lucia Peel Joe Jernigan				