



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

May 2020

From Our Bishop

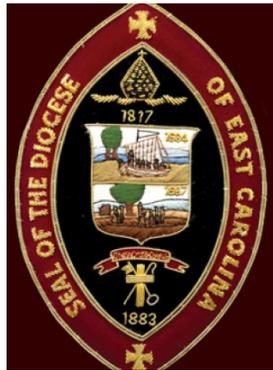
Friday, April 24, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our gospel reading this Sunday offers the story of two disciples walking the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, later on the day that Jesus' tomb had been found open and empty. Just as Jesus joined the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, so he joins us on the journey we are taking through this time of COVID-19.

Today, I write to tell you that the journey will continue for some time yet. In my last letter to you, I directed that the suspension of public worship in the Diocese of East Carolina would continue through the end of April.

Now I write to say that this suspension will last even longer. Yesterday, Governor Cooper extended his "stay at home" order until Friday, May 8. At that time, if our situation in North Carolina has improved enough, we will enter the first phase of a three-phase approach to "reopening" our state. During that first phase, which will last at least two additional weeks, public gatherings will continue to be limited to no more than ten people. So, in reality, we will not be able to begin our return to public worship until at least the Memorial Day weekend, and perhaps much later. When the time comes, I will offer a clear statement about our return to public worship.



With the support of Diocesan leadership, resources will be provided to assist congregations in modifying worship to accommodate limited capacities, physical distancing and other measures that will be critical to our safe return.

In moments when we are angry about the constraints we face, fearful about our own wellbeing, or anxious about our ability to continue in the midst of great challenges, let us remember the one who walked

with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The same resurrected Jesus walks with us today.

Yours in Christ,
Robert S. Skirving



Pentecost Ends Great Fifty Days of Easter

The liturgical color red will be the color of the day as the Great Fifty Days of Easter ends with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for Pentecost Sunday on May 31



The service commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles as they gathered seven weeks after Passover to celebrate the ancient Jewish feast of Shavuoth to acknowledge the revelation of the Law on Mount Sinai.

Now filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles began to go out and preach.

Subsequently, Pentecost is informally referred to as the birthday of the church, the day the church began to grow.

In the early church, Pentecost was a time for the administration of the sacrament of baptism.

Sometimes Pentecost is called Whitsunday for Whitesunday in reference to the white robes worn by those being baptized.

Green is the color of the coming season of Pentecost, which continues until Advent.

Opportunities for Worship

Each Sunday in May, Senior Warden Johnny Miller will ring the church bell at 11:00 to call us to home worship.

You can find quick links on the web page of the Diocese of East Carolina to Sunday services of Morning Prayer being led by Bishop Rob Skirving and a host of others across the diocese. A link to the service leaflets is provided.

You can also worship at the Washington National Cathedral at cathedral.org. Links are provided to connect you to the Sunday services of Holy Eucharist. You can access the worship booklet for the Sunday service complete with music. Sunday service begins at 11:15 a.m. with organ prelude.

The service includes a spiritual communion. From the service booklet: *A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

Update on Blessings in a Backpack

Packing for Blessings in a Backpack continues to be done by the pre-school staff at Memorial Baptist Church who are already in place working.

Volunteers from participating churches deliver to the homes on Wednesday.

Kit Reddick is delivering each week to homes in Willow Acres.



Sign up for Parish Family Weekend

Our 29th Parish Family Weekend will be July 17-19 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores. At this time you can sign up with Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan in the Church Office by email or telephone.

The rates are as following:

- \$85.00 per person, per night for double occupancy
 - \$105.00 per person, per night for single occupancy
 - \$32.00 per person, per night for 5 to 17 year olds
 - \$12.00 per person, per night. For 1 to 4 year olds
- Payment is due by June 19th.

Reverend Jim Horton will serve as clergy in residence.



Meet Our Graduates

Addison Bosso is graduating from Bear Grass Charter School.

Addison will be remembered by the Church of the Advent with a Bible.



Anna Chesson is graduating from the School of Media and Journalism at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At this time her ceremony is on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The university is considering including Anna's classmates in a December graduation ceremony.

Anna will be remembered by the Church of the Advent with a inspirational book.

A Gentle Reminder about Your Pledges

During this period of suspension of public worship as a part of Stay at Home, you may mail your pledges in or drop them off with Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan at the Church Office during the morning office hours



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

*James & Janice Ford
Lucia Peel Powe
Anthony McNeile
Nita Smith
Mary Charles Coppage*

Birthdays

*2 ~ Shannon Stanton
7 ~ Zach Dickerson
9 ~ Jim Horton
12 ~ Rick Voorhis
13 ~ Sonona Jefferson
14 ~ Chris Stanton
14 ~ Mary Bonner
15 ~ Exum Taylor
19 ~ Michael Biondi
20 ~ Jeanne Batten
25 ~ Henry Mills*



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

Johnny Miller, 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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May Services Cancelled until Memorial Day Weekend

May 24 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Polk Culpepper 11:00 am

May 31 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Mal Roberts 11:00 am

June Sunday Services Begin 10:00 am

June 7 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Mal Roberts 10:00 am

June 8 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm

June 10 Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 pm

June 14 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Polk Culpepper 10:00 am

June 21 Morning Prayer / Kit Reddick 10:00 am

June 28 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Polk Culpepper 10:00 am

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