



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

April 2022

Make Us Instruments of Your Peace

We know the stories. We wish we did not because they are so heart-wrenching, but they are vivid testimonies of human suffering we cannot brush aside. Although the war in Ukraine touches us deeply, we observe the atrocities from afar. The war does not upend our lives.

There is the account of two young children sitting beside their dead parents who are rescued by a stranger trying to escape Ukraine with her young child. The woman adopts those orphaned kids as her own, taking on the added risk of fleeing with three children in tow. A 10-year-old boy asks his mom if he will live to be 11. Over 300 persons, including many children, are killed when a theater is demolished by Russian bombardment even though huge signage marked the place as a refuge for children.

There is the image of elderly women on their bellies practicing accurate aim with long guns they've just been taught to handle. If they have arthritic knees, the pain of the shooting posture is overcome by determination to participate in the defense of their country. Independent news channels broadcast a picture of a Russian woman, clearly of advanced age, being arrested for demonstrating against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She would not survive the length of incarceration of up to 15 years to which she and other Russian activists may be sentenced for protesting. Old persons remember and are not deterred from taking their stands.

Hospitals, schools, orphanages, housing projects are among the sites where people have been maimed and killed. Putin has been accused of committing war crimes for deliberately targeting civilians. His tactics not only displace millions of Ukrainians but also prevent the escape of many and take many others hostage. Dignified burials are impossible for a vast number of victims who have to be buried in mass graves. Still others, including Russian soldiers, lay dead in the streets. Brutality is



rampant. Death and destruction are common. Despair seems not to be because the people of Ukraine are determined to prevail.

We know the stories and are both repelled and drawn into them. There have been other wars, other atrocities perpetrated on peoples throughout the world, other heinous acts driven by the fragile egos and distorted idealism of despots. We pray for victims and perpetrators alike while trying not to hate the latter. There is something different about Putin's war on Ukraine, and no politician, military advisor or commentator seems able to precisely identify what that is. Ukraine is an independent, sovereign European country with a duly elected president. Its defeat may initiate the dreaded domino effect that will accomplish Putin's aim to bring former Soviet Union countries back into Russia's grip. Putin's actions have aroused new fears that the world may not do enough in responding to the illegality of Putin's aggression, fears about the consequences of geopolitical contours being redrawn, fear of nuclear war or cold war, fear that Putin's war will escalate into a world war. Those fears are shared globally, but there seems to be more nuanced fears that may account for this war seeming different, more personal, for us. Could it be that we fear that our security may be threatened or our accustomed ways of life disrupted, that the fate of innocent persons may not matter enough or the humanitarian crisis may seem so overwhelming that we do not respond as we might? Are Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's pleas for the United States and other governments to intervene call to all people of good will to participate in defeating evil and alleviating the suffering of its victims?



Some folks try not to get emotionally wrapped up, may even try not to pay attention; but, for most of us, that does not work. The scenes that cause such heartache are too reminiscent of the tragedies of the last World War we lest not forget regardless of our being alive at the time, and so we dare not resist

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awareness of these new horrors. We want something to be done, and there are a lot of voices weighing in. The mix is thick. Many ready to speak just want to be heard, and repeatedly vie for attention, but do not offer viable solutions. Some sound frankly befuddled about finding a path towards the cessation of hostilities. A few provide some clarity that seems carefully resourced and sound. Still, confusion abounds.

What is asked of me? Of you? Of the Church of the Advent? I frequently use a prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book that speaks to my spirit and is both a blessing and a call. As I pray to our God of many names, Lover of all peoples, and ask for peace in our hearts, homes, community and the world, my fervent wish is that we will find the peace of our need in the peace of God's will. I think that means trusting the Prince of Peace to show me, and you, what we can do in some small way to help bring about peace or at least consolation for people embroiled in conflict. We may have compassion for the suffering and celebrate the courage we witness that gives us a sense of solidarity with the people living in war's hell and realize a profound connection with God's will for peace and God's will for us as instruments of peace.

Connie

Observance of Palm Sunday begins at 10:30 a. m. on Sunday, April 10 with light refreshments served in the Parish House.

Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday, which is the last Sunday before Easter, marks the beginning of the last week in Lent — Holy Week.

The Sunday is so named for it celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as people ran before him shouting "hosanna" — from the Hebrew word "hosh'a'na" meaning "save us" — and scattering palms before him.

During the Liturgy of the Palms, which is the entrance rite for the morning's service, worshippers process into the church carrying palms.

The service then changes focus from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the solemnity of the Passion.

The customary responses before and after the gospel are omitted and the people will read specific roles in the Passion Gospel.

The readers are as follows:

Lector and Intercessor: Kit Reddick
 Chalice Bearer: John Price
 Acolyte: Exum Taylor
 Passion Gospel Readers
 Narrator: Rev. Connelly
 Soldiers: All Men



Palm
SUNDAY

Peter: Chuck Cohen
 Accuser 1: Lucia Peel
 Disciples: Choir
 Accuser 2: Janice Greene
 Jesus: Brandon Woody
 Criminal 1: John Price
 Servant: Lori Taylor
 Criminal 2: Bob Greene
 Pilate: Michael Biondi
 Centurion: Jim Allen
 Crowd: Congregation

The service concludes with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II.

During **Holy Week**, services will observe **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**, using the liturgies from the Book of Common Prayer. Both services begin at 6:00 p. m.



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



Easter
SUNDAY

Chairs are provided.

Worship continues at the Church of the Advent at 11:00 a. m. with a service of **Holy Eucharist**. Worshippers are invited to bring cut flowers for the **Flowering of the Cross**. The cross will be placed outside 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 now transformed by Christ's rising.

April is Cancer Month.
 We will be lighting candles on Sunday, April 24th in honor of or in memory of a friend, family member or loved one who is fighting cancer or who has lost that battle. If you would like to contribute, please give Lucia Peel a check payable to ECW for \$10 per person being honored or memorialized along with their name(s). Names will be printed in the bulletin for the service. A donation will be made to the Hope House in Greenville, that serves Pitt and Martin County cancer survivors.



The Prayer List is found in the notebook marked "The Prayer List" 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 Ford

Chris Carroll

Betty Jones Dell DiBello

Brandon Woody

Cheryl Klein

Patrick Cohen John Curley

Jessie Critcher

Lucia Powe

Nita Smith

Christopher Curley

Beau

the people of Ukraine

Jennifer Council

Bill Poole

Birthdays

16 ~ Angi Godard

16 ~ Virginia Medford

17 ~ Douglas Chesson

23 ~ Amanda Allen

27 ~ Toussaint Biondi

29 ~ Jeannette McGinley



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

The Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge

Lucia Peel, Senior Warden

Doug Chesson, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday,
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choirmaster

124 West Church Street

P. O. Box 463

Williamston, NC 27892

Telephone: 252.792.2244

Email: advent1850@gmail.com

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

***For fire, police, injury or other emergencies, call 911 for assistance. Then please contact in this order: Connie, Joe, Lucia, Doug.

***For pastoral emergencies, contact in this order Connie, Lucia, Joe.

***For all problems or issues dealing with the church and rectory buildings and grounds, please contact Joe and then he and Doug will determine how to proceed.

Connie 704-651-0244

Joe 252-809-3405

Lucia 919-523-3382

Doug 252-809-2476

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 3 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

April 10 Palm Sunday 10:30 am

April 14 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm

April 15 Good Friday 6:00 pm

April 17 Easter Sunday 11:00 am

April 24 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm

May 1 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

May 8 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

May 11 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm

May 15 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

May 22 Green Acres 11:00 am
Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm

May 29 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.

Church of the Advent

April 2022

Lay Schedule

	3 <i>5 Lent</i> MP I 11:00 A.M.	10 <i>Palm Sunday</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.	14 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> HE II 6:00 P.M.	17 <i>Easter Sunday</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.	24 2 Easter HE II 11:00 A.M.
MP Leader	Jane Jernigan				
Lector	Chuck Cohen	Kit Reddick ***	Ginny Webb	Valerie Cooke	Michael Biondi
Intercessor		Kit Reddick	Bill Webb	Lucia Peel	Cathy Cohen
Eucharistic Minister		John Price	Bill Webb	John Price Don Beach	Doug Chesson
Acolyte		Exum Taylor		Exum Taylor	
Altar Guild	Brandon Woody Lori Taylor				
Ushers	Jim Allen Maria Allen				

***** Passion Gospel Readers**

Narrator: Rev. Connelly
Soldiers: All Men
Peter: Chuck Cohen
Accuser 1: Lucia Peel
Disciples: Choir
Accuser 2: Janice Greene
Jesus: Brandon Woody

Criminal 1: John Price
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