



Church of the Advent

# Advent Advisor

August 2020

## Worshipping Outdoors

Thanks to Senior Warden Johnny Miller, Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan, Keyboardist Brandon Woody, and our lay leaders, the Church of the Advent is gathering for worship on the lawn.



The services begin at 11:00 a.m. and last about 30 minutes.

Thank you to Lucia Peel, who provides us with cold beverages to be enjoyed before, during, and after worship.

Again, reminders for outdoor worship:

*Bring your own chair.*

*Sit six feet apart, Families may sit together.*

*Masks, hand sanitizer available on table with offering plate and bulletins.*

*You will remain in your seat during the service except when directed to stand.*

*Leave Hassell Street open for those who wish to remain in their cars during the service.*

Although much of the service is printed in the bulletin, you are encouraged to bring your personal prayer books and hymnals for supplementing the bulletin,

At this time, no Eucharistic Ministers or acolytes are needed until further notice,



## A Reminder about Your Pledges

During this period of suspension of public worship as a part of Safer 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.



Thanks From Our Grad

Dear Church of the Advent,

Thank you so much for remembering me on my graduation. I really appreciate the book and plan to start reading it soon.

I would also like to thank everyone for always being there to support me, from my time as an acolyte to my Eagle Scout Fundraiser to my high school and college graduations. I have always known that my church family would be there for me, and it is a comfort knowing that I have so many people rooting for me.

Sincerely, Jess Miller

## And Other Thanks

Thank you, parishioners, for your support of our food drive to help the pantry at the local Department of Social Services. Your generous contributions are much appreciated.

Thank you to Jim and Maria Allen for their contribution of a fan for the church basement. The fan reportedly works better than the previous one!



**August 12**

**6 p. m.**

**Led by**

**Brandon Woody**

**Inside the Church**

**May need to move outside**

**if over 10 attending.**

## Spiritual Communion in a Season of Social Distancing

By the Rev. Ruth A. Meyers, PhD

*Ruth Meyers is dean of academic affairs and Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgics at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.*

*Excerpted from article found at <https://cdsp.edu/2020/04/spiritual-communion-in-a-season-of-social-distancing/>*

In this time of social distancing, when we cannot come together to celebrate the eucharist, church leaders are introducing creative responses such as packing plastic bags with consecrated wafers for people to drive up and take home, or suggestions that people in disparate places provide their own bread and wine as a presider in another space prays a eucharistic prayer. Such efforts suggest hunger for the body and blood of Christ.

The desire to receive communion reflects a sea change in eucharistic piety in the Episcopal Church during the late twentieth century. The liturgical renewal movement was highly effective in transforming the Episcopal Church, fostering a eucharistic spirituality with an expectation that the Holy Eucharist is the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day (BCP 13). We've come a long way from the common practice of monthly celebrations of Holy Communion or the non-communicating high mass of some Anglo-Catholic congregations.

Since the earliest centuries of Christianity, eucharist has included *both* a prayer of thanksgiving in which the assembly remembers what God has done for us *and* the sharing of the eucharistic gifts of bread and wine, Christ's body and blood.

One proposal to hold these together is for a presider in one place to pray the great prayer of thanksgiving while those sheltering in their homes have their own bread and wine to be consecrated. Yet this practice places undue emphasis on the reception of communion. Sharing one bread and one cup is integral to communion, as the apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). A webcast or Facebook livestream or Zoom meeting can help us feel connected to our community, but it does not allow us to share one bread or one cup.

In the celebration of the eucharist, we experience the real presence of Christ, not only in the bread and wine that are blessed and shared but also in the Word proclaimed and broken open in homily, in the community gathered as the body of Christ, in song and prayer. This real presence is always in tension with real absence. We glimpse Christ's presence, getting a taste of the heavenly banquet, yet on this side of the grave we

never experience the fullness of that presence. Real absence draws us forward to the time when we shall see God face to face. Real absence makes room for the mystery of God whose presence we can neither compel nor control.

Social distancing makes us keenly aware of real absence and our yearning for the real presence of Christ, an experience we share with Christians through the ages. To respond when we cannot celebrate eucharist, Christian tradition offers us the practice of spiritual communion. St. Thomas Aquinas explains this as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him" at times when it is not possible to receive the sacramental elements.

The 1979 Prayer Book refers to spiritual communion in the form for Ministration to the Sick, directing the priest to assure a person unable to eat and drink the bread and wine "that all the benefits of Communion are received even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth" (BCP 457). The Prayer Book for the Armed Services suggests a prayer for spiritual communion:

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to 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.*

In this season of social distancing, individuals and congregations can practice spiritual communion in a number of ways. Any Christian desiring to receive the sacrament can offer a prayer for their own spiritual communion.



Some congregations have the resources to gather a small number of leaders for a full celebration of communion, inviting others to view the celebration from their homes and feed on Christ in their hearts by faith, with thanksgiving (BCP 365). Other congregations may find that their resources enable them to offer the liturgy of the Word via livestream or video conference, and adapt that form to include prayers for spiritual communion.

The apostle Paul assures us that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39). Spiritual communion offers one way to sustain ourselves as we await the time when we can once again gather in the same space with other Christians to celebrate eucharist.

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 Robert*  
*Edward Warren*  
*Madison Frankie*  
*Nita and Bill Mary Charles*  
*Breona Matthew*  
*Warren Autumn*  
*Suzanne Lennox*  
*Christopher*

### Birthdays

*4 ~ Christopher Bosso*  
*9 ~ Betty Jones*  
*10 ~ Catherine Cohen*  
*12 ~ Jess Miller*  
*15 ~ Collins Crowe*  
*15 ~ John Roney*  
*23 ~ Jane Allen*  
*26 ~ Janice Greene*  
*26 ~ Tom Slade*



### **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**

**124 West Church Street**

**P. O. Box 463**

**Williamston, NC 27892**

**Telephone: 252.792.2244**

**Email: [advent1850@gmail.com](mailto:advent1850@gmail.com)**

**[www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com](http://www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com)**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

August 2 Morning Prayer / Jane Jernigan 11:00 am

August 9 Morning Prayer / Bill Webb 11:00 am

August 10 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm

August 12 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm

August 16 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Donna Kraus 11:00 am

August 23 Morning Prayer / Kit Reddick 11:00 am

August 30 Holy Eucharist / Rev. Polk Culpepper 11:00 am

September - Still Under Construction

September 9 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm

September 14 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm

*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*

## *August 2020*

---



---



---

### *Lay Schedule*

---

	<b>2</b> <i>9 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>9</b> <i>10 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>16</b> <i>11 Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>23</b> <i>12 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>30</b> <i>13 Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Jane Jernigan	Bill Webb	Rev. Kraus	Kit Reddick	Rev. Culpepper
<b>Lector</b>	Valerie Cooke	Ginny Webb	Chuck Cohen	Michael Biondi	Jane Jernigan
<b>Intercessor</b>	N/A	N/A	Catherine Cohen	N/A	Lucia Peel
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Acolytes</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joe Jernigan Lori Taylor				
<b>Ushers</b>	Jim Allen Doug Chesson				

\*\*\* No Acolytes and Chalice Bearers until further notice \*\*\*