



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

November 2023

Let There Be Peace On Earth, and Let It Begin With Me

We are approaching the most festive time of the year.

Halloween is upon us, and children and adults alike enjoy the fun of wearing costumes that change identities and sometimes reveal alter egos of super heroes, royalty and spooky creatures. We adults join in on trick or treating by going door to door with little folks or by delighting in the happiness of those who come to our door.



Many of us will gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations, perhaps with renewed determination not to press strong opinions that lead to arguments around the family table. Plans are in the works and some of us already are out and about gathering the goods to make merry. We mean for Advent to be joyful as we anticipate happy times. Even as we know that the Church historically has observed Advent as a time to repent and get right with God in preparation for Christ's coming again, we tend toward a theology of grace, a theology that is decidedly incarnational by focusing on the narrative of Jesus' birth. Penitence gets barely a nod in Advent.

But I wonder. Would penitence help this hurting world find peace where there is no peace? We may experience comfort and a sense of security in our own lives while being discomfited, even afraid, because of harrowing events that seem to have nothing to do with us. But I wonder. Are we so insulated from tragic situations that befall our fellow human beings that we give little or no heed to how they affect us? Are we protected from violence that is perpetuated not only by hate but also by anguish and despair? Are we protected from so-called *random violence*?

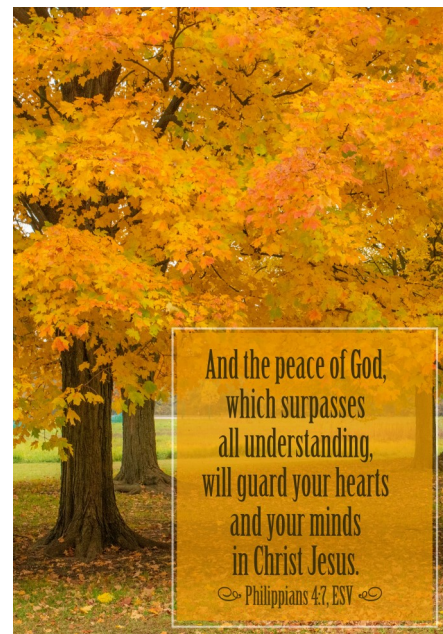
I am in no way suggesting that we are directly responsible for humiliation, destitution, exploitation, marginalizing, oppression, corruption, ambition, greed,

fear, abuse, need to retaliate or any other thing on God's good earth that destroys lives and entire populations. I am suggesting that if we do not recognize some solidarity with suffering, if only because our hearts ache when we hear about it, we may discount why Jesus was born into the world.

Penitence is acknowledging our dependency on things that we've given a more prominent place of importance than God. Sometimes dependency becomes compulsive, sometimes it distorts reality; as such, it seldom is merely recognized but accompanied by remorse or regret. Essentially, penitence is coming to terms with our inadequate strivings to control that which we cannot control and realizing God's prerogative. As we come to know our need for God, we become repentant and turn towards God by an intentional realignment of what matters. Sometimes we need a competent guide and a lot of prayer to do that.

God is love. Our hearts are inclined to love. We are created by love to love. Love is apparent, or at least there are intimations of it, in our ordinary day to day lives. Whether or not we notice it, God is in the mix of all we are about. When God gets our attention, love

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And the peace of God,
which surpasses
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7, ESV

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takes hold of us and we recognize our common humanity and common identity as God's beloved. Then, we begin to discern how in the world we might make a difference; how we might hear the worry, sadness and hopes of others; how we might spread goodwill and help alleviate tension in the most basic ways, and in the most profound; how we might help bring healing and restoration.



The reality that this old world needs healing should neither diminish the anticipatory mood that Advent promotes and the pervasive sense of goodness underlying all the preparations for the seasons' celebrations nor deny a world of trouble. By participating in the salvific ministry of the Prince of Peace we may know joy that transcends what is happening all around. Participation is particular to each of us, taking many forms.

Francis of Assisi demonstrated in the simplicity of how he lived a formula for being instruments of peace. The following prayer attributed to him expresses ideals that may speak to us variously. Perhaps we might discuss with one another how we hear them and how we might respond as a community.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Connie

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

The Spaghetti fundraiser for the church music programs raised \$570.00 after expenses.

The donation basket at the Bishop's Luncheon yielded \$70.00. The offering will be sent to the Food Bank of the Albemarle, where it will purchase 280 meals.

Terri Curley plans the meals and cooks and serves alongside Cathy Cohen to feed the participants in the Choir School every Thursday night.



Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 4.

If you fail to this before you go to church, you will arrive an hour early!!

All Saints Sunday will be observed on November 5th, the first Sunday following All Saints Day on November 1.

Rev. Connie Connelly is requesting for submission of names of persons who have died that you wish to commemorate.

"It is appropriate to include not only family members but also the names of anyone whose death in the last year or so has touched you and who is held in your heart and prayers."

The names will be printed and said aloud in the Prayers of the People. The names need to be sent to the church office by Thursday morning either by phone (792-2244) or by email.



On Sunday, November 19, parishioners will have an opportunity to make their pledges to the Church of the Advent during the Sunday morning service through the use of pledge cards.



Like the Diocese of East Carolina, the Church of the Advent relies on a voluntary method instead of a fixed system of apportionment to gather in money from its members for the mission and ministry of the church.

On Sunday, November 19th at 6:00 p. m., the



Church of the Advent will host a Community Thanksgiving Evensong. Choirs from First United Methodist Church and the First Christian Church have been invited to sing in a combined choir.

There will be NO evening service on Wednesday, November 8th.



During the month of November, we will be collecting canned meats for the local Senior Center.

They will be part of a Christmas food box to provide ten meals that meet the Recommended Daily Allowance for nutrition to clients when Meals on Wheels is out of commission due to winter weather.

Parishioners will find requests posted in the narthex. The collection will continue through November with delivery to the Center during the first week of December.

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 Ford
Betty Jones
Ann Wallace
Jessie Critcher
Rose Allard
Patti Malone*

Birthdays

*2 ~ Richard Favreau
3 ~ Chris Cooke
6 ~ Lucy Horton
15 ~ Dawson Taylor
24 ~ Ginny Webb
25 ~ Frankie Biggs
26 ~ Chuck Cohen
28 ~ Bob Greene
30 ~ Charlotte Critcher*



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge
Office Hours:

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Other hours by appointment

Office Phone #: 252.792.2244

Cell Phone #: 704-651-0244

Doug Chesson, Senior Warden

Michael Biondi, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Office Phone #: 252.792.2244

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choirmaster

124 West Church Street

P. O. Box 463

Williamston, NC 27892

Email: advent1850@gmail.com

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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

*****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.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 12 Holy Eucharist 11:00am
November 19 Holy Eucharist/Stewardship
Sunday 11:00am
November 19 Community Thanksgiving
Evensong 6:00pm
November 26 Morning Prayer 11:00am
December 3 Holy Eucharist/Great
Litany 11:00am
December 3 Vestry Meeting 12:00noon
December 3 Concert by Brandon, Kim
and other brass musicians 3:00pm
December 10 Holy Eucharist/Annual
Meeting 11:00am
December 17 Christmas Lessons and
Carols 11:00am
December 20 Longest Night Service 6:00pm
December 24 Holy Eucharist 11:00am
December 24 Music Prelude 10:30pm
December 24 Christmas Eve
Service 11:00pm
December 31 Morning Prayer 11:00am

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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Lay Schedule

	5 <i>23 Pentecost Holy Eucharist 11:00 A.M.</i>	12 <i>24 Pentecost Holy Eucharist 11:00 A.M.</i>	19 <i>25 Pentecost Holy Eucharist 11:00 A.M. Stewardship Sunday</i>	26 <i>Last Pentecost Morning Prayer 11:00 A.M.</i>
<i>MP Leader</i>				John Price
<i>Lector</i>	Chuck Cohen	Cathy Skinner	Jane Jernigan	Cathy Cohen
<i>Intercessor</i>	Cathy Cohen	Bill Webb	Jane Jernigan	
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Doug Chesson	Bill Webb	Don Beach	
<i>Acolyte</i>				
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Bob Greene Janice Greene			
<i>Ushers</i>	Sue House Joe Jernigan			