

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Kennett Square, PA

June 21, 2026 9:00 a.m.



Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are a guest with us this morning, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a guest card, which will allow us to remain in contact with you and provide you with additional information. You may place your completed card in the offering plate, or you may give it to our priest as you are leaving. On our website (www.adventks.org), you will find an up-to-date calendar of all church ministries and activities, and you may sign up to receive our weekly email. If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Advent, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, please contact our priest (Tim Johnson) at (610) 444-4624 or rector@adventks.org. **Again, welcome!**

Our Parish Vision:

To build and nurture a community where all people may encounter God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ and learn to live as his followers in the world.

Our Parish Mission:

We seek to grow as disciples of Christ –
in community, prayer, learning, and service.

Our Parish Prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you,
so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills,
that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you;
and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory
and the welfare of your people;
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(from the Book of Common Prayer)

Elementary Sunday School is on summer break and will resume in the fall. **Children's Chapel will be offered during the 9 am service in July and August.**

Jr/Sr High Sunday School is on summer break and will resume in the fall.

Adult Formation – Adult formation is on break for June. On the Sundays of July, at 10 am in the parish hall, Rev. Tim will lead a class on the Anglican Communion (of which the Episcopal Church is a part). The Anglican Communion is the third largest Christian denomination/communion in the world.

Readings for Next Week (June 28): Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Midweek Holy Eucharists, 8 am in the Chapel – Wednesday, June 24th (Nativity of John the Baptist); Monday, June 29th (Sts. Peter & Paul)

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Improvisation on "Be Not Afraid"

OPENING HYMN

Be Not Afraid

#6 in the **Family Service Songbook**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your lovingkindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

- 1 Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, *
for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

- 5 For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, *
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD, *
nor anything like your works.
- 9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O LORD, *
and glorify your Name.
- 10 For you are great;
you do wondrous things; *
and you alone are God.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SEQUENCE ALLELUIA (*Please stand as you are able.*)

sing 3 times

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 10:24-39

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

The NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he
came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became
incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he
was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he
ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We
believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge
one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of
the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Please remain standing, kneel, or sit for the prayers.)*
The response is "Hear us, O God."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(Please kneel or sit for the confession.)*

Celebrant In silence, let us confession our sins before God.

Silence is observed.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have
left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and
forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

THE PEACE (*Please stand as you are able for the Peace.*)

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SOLO

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Leon Spencer, Bass



Scan this QR code if you would like to make a gift electronically.

(Please stand as you are able.)

A musical score for a bass solo. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:"

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,

with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:

here we of - fer, Lord, our prais-es; heart and mind and strength we bring;

give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., (1944-)
 MUSIC: Leavitt's *The Christian Lyre*, 1830
 Words © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

PLEADING SAVIOR
 8.7.8.7.D.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Prayer C from the Book of Common Prayer.*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sing 3 times in English.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore you. My
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra. Mi

heart is glad to say the words: you are Ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Señ - or.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Leah, Rebecca, and Mary; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

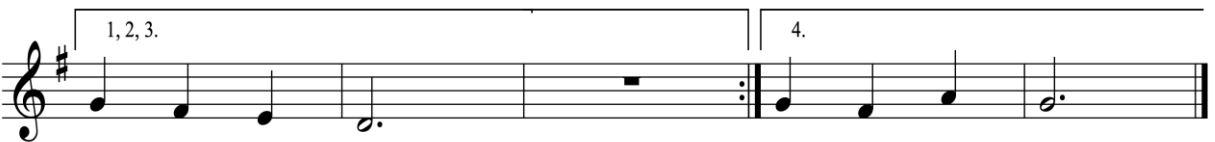
Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

**Our Father, who art in
heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory for ever
and ever. Amen.**



Lamb of God,
Prince of Peace, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on
Bread of Life,



us, Lamb of God. us, grant us peace.

SUGGESTED SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE SUMMER:

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Dwelling in the Word is a simple, easy way to reflect on a passage from Scripture. It is most easily done with a passage from one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), and this practice may be done alone or with others. The bulletin insert contains a list of the appointed readings for next Sunday; try using *Dwelling on the Word* with next week's Gospel reading as a method for preparing for next week's worship service.

1. Read the passage aloud, slowly and intentionally. Read it with the goal of simply familiarizing yourself with the passage.
2. Read the passage aloud again. Pay particular attention to any word, phrase, or image that jumps out at you, catches your attention, or prompts a question. If you are doing this practice with others, share the word, phrase, or image that caught your attention.
3. Read the passage aloud for a third time. Ask: What might the Holy Spirit be saying to me as an individual or to our church community through this passage? If you are doing this practice with others, share your response to this question(s).