



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

Summer is here! Our town is filled with tourists and many of us are vacationing to other towns for a few days or weeks. Most of our church committees and educational programs, along with the vestry, are taking time off from meeting. However, I hope that you won't be taking a vacation from Sunday worship. With all that is happening in the world these days, we need God and the sacraments more than ever.

When I'm on vacation, I enjoy visiting other churches and seeing what different communities do on Sunday. It's also a nice change for me to just worship without having to preach or lead the service. And I find that being in church strengthens me for the week ahead, even if it is a week of vacation.

The flip side of worshipping elsewhere while on vacation is offering hospitality to Advent's summer visitors. Although many of our visitors are "regulars" who come to Cape May every year, there are plenty of first-time worshipers who also join us. When you're at Advent during the summer, please take the time to greet our visitors and welcome them. Don't worry if you can't remember names—I ask people all the time to remind me of their name. Offering hospitality is both biblical and important, especially for the church. We never know exactly why a person chooses to come and worship with us, but hopefully we improve their day by making them feel welcome.

So if you're traveling this summer, take the time to worship elsewhere. You might even snag an idea or two for use here. If there is no church where you are, remember you can join us on-line and watch the live-stream. And when you're in town, remember that helping to welcome visitors is a ministry job for everyone. We want visiting Advent to be a positive experience for people vacationing in Cape May.

I wish you all a renewing and relaxing summer—but don't take a vacation from God. We need the Lord in our life all the time!

Alan+

SEEING THROUGH A CHRISTIAN LENS

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend (virtually) the Annual 2022 Karl Barth Conference at Princeton. Barth was a leading 20th Reformed theologian of wide influence. The event, attended mostly by Reformed scholars and theologians, included Episcopal, Orthodox, Catholic, and non-sectarian speakers, as well. Each spoke on a

topic of interest on some aspect of Barth's work. Some were more interesting to me than others. One especially stood out because it seemed to be history-in-the-making. It was a presentation of the recently published *Orthodox Church Declaration* against the Russian Orthodox Church's theological and political support of the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. The relevance to the Barth conference was that this paper drew a clear historical parallel with Barth's courageous stand against the nationalizing Christian Church in Nazi-Germany in the early 1930s. Barth's action culminated in the famous *Barmen Declaration of 1934* that refuted this movement. Barth took a clear stand against Hitler's coerced amalgamation of the German Lutheran Church leadership into the Nazi regime in his efforts to synthesize Christian beliefs with Nazi ideology. Not all German Lutherans followed this ploy; many resisted. Some gave their lives in resisting fascism. Karl Barth lost his career teaching at the University of Bonn for his action. Returning home to his native Switzerland, he continued his contributions to Reformed Christian theology well into the 20th-century. His legacy remains important, reflecting important Christian thought in an increasingly secular world.

Yet, what I learned from listening to this particular lecture was not because of Barth's theological erudition. Rather, I learned that there are moments in the events around us where clarifying Christian witness provides moral and ethical impact in our world. In this case, elucidating clarification and courage—recognizing evil in its camouflaged and nuanced forms and inspiring the will to resist it peaceably, if at all possible. When I asked if there was an initial, discernible impact by the *Orthodox Declaration* (It had been published March 22, 2022.), the lecturer, one of the statement's authors, Dr. Brandon Gellahar, of the University of Exeter, UK, replied that many Orthodox Bishops in the Ukraine had disseminated the declaration and preached on it. Likewise, groups of Russian Orthodox priests *inside Russia* were galvanizing around the *Declaration*, bringing active moral challenge against the Russian Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow's avid justification for the Russian invasion.

Standing up for moral conviction on any scale, under any circumstance is not easy. This is especially true in the face of power or social pressure. Some Christian moral witness never catches public eye. Some is highly sacrificial. It can be quite lonely and quite fearful. However, God uses our faith not only to propagate love but also righteousness. Whether the issue is local, regional, or national and whether it is a matter of law, social policy, or simply neighborhood norms, looking at them through a Christian moral lens, especially focused on human suffering, rights, need, or dignity is our calling in baptism. Speaking out or acting on what we see is to witness to our faith. This witness is needed to help build God's Kingdom.

— Sam Wilson

MAKING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Making the Sign of the Cross expresses in an outward expression of our inner beliefs about the centrality of the cross. The cross is, of course, where Jesus died to pay the price for our sins. He also commanded us in Luke 9:23, "take up their (our) cross and follow me". Making the Sign of the Cross expresses these truths.

There is a tendency of some Christians to over emphasize the intellectual at the expense of other aspects of the faith. Biblical Christianity, however, involves the whole

person, including the body. We read in scripture about lifting up holy hands, falling down before the Lord, bowing our heads and the like. Christian worship is not just listening to a sermon talking about these bodily postures but involves our doing these things.

In the incarnation, the second person of the Trinity became human. God, who is spirit, literally became a human being. To say that he only seemed to be human is a heresy. Christianity is not just about ideas; it is also about God becoming flesh. Christianity today, therefore, is not just a discussion about lofty ideas, but is down-to-earth. Making the sign of the cross because it is "merely" outward and physical misses the point of the incarnation.

Making the Sign of the Cross is a witness to others of our faith. Many Christians wear a cross, dove of fish pins as a witness to others, making the Sign of the Cross is similar.

Making the Sign of the Cross is a reminder to us. Yes, one can make the Sign of the Cross out of mere habit, but as with all other habits in life, the question is not, "Is it a *dead* habit?" but rather, "Is it a *bad* habit?" Bad habits, of course, must go. But that dead habits periodically wake up to ask us, "Why are you doing this?" We soon start to answer that question and that which was previously dead comes back to life.

Making the Sign of the Cross, or using any of the historical outward gestures, rescue us when words fail us or we are mentally tired.

Most of the objections to making the Sign of the Cross usually stems from anti-Catholic prejudice. When the American flag comes by in a parade, we stand, and place our hands or hat over our hearts as the flag passes, which is an outward ceremonial action. If symbols and ceremonies are important in honoring America, they must have a greater, not lesser, place in honoring God.

How and when to make the Sign of the Cross. The "large" Sign of the Cross can be made by touching the hand first to the forehead, in the middle of the chest, the left shoulder and lastly the right shoulder, (some continue back to the center of the chest as an Amen). While we *resist any legalistic uniformity* to make the Sign of the Cross, there are times when making it is most usually observed. Here are some.

- At the very beginning of liturgy.
- When the Trinity is invoked: "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit".
- At the end of the Creed.
- When absolution is bestowed after confession of sin. (This reminds us we are forgiven not because God lowered the standards, nor because we can earn forgiveness, but because Christ died on the Cross.)
- At the end of the Sanctus/Benedictus: when the celebrant says, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord".
- Before/after receiving Holy Communion.
- Whenever a blessing is bestowed.

The "small" Sign of the Cross is made by tracing a small cross with the right thumb on your forehead, mouth, and breast. This is done when the Gospel is announced. It means, "May God be in my thinking, my speaking, and my feelings and choosing, especially in the light of the scripture instructions I am about to hear".

The Sign of the Cross with Holy Water. (*This has been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.*) Christians acknowledge the rightness of infant baptism, nevertheless, wish there could be some way to experience their baptism anew. Many churches, therefore, have small basins containing Holy Water at the entrance. Place the fingers on the right hand into the water and make the Sign of the Cross over yourself or else trace a cross on your forehead in remembrance of the baptismal promises made to you by God and made by you (and your parents and sponsors) to God.

If anyone wishes more information simply go to "Wikipedia" and enter The Sign of the Cross.

-Father Dan Hall

THE SEARCH IN ON!!

For those of you who have been attending our in-person worship service at the later service and those of you who tune into Facebook for your worship experience, you may have noticed there is something missing. What is it?? Once COVID became a part of our lives for many months, we could not have in-person worship. As a result, we had no acolytes. Now that we are nearly back to "normal", we still lack acolytes and the procession up the aisle. The reason is that many of our young folk have graduated and have moved on to college life.

So...we wonder if there might be a few of our "older" congregants who might have an interest in helping with the worship services. We know that some of you have served in your parishes as acolytes in your younger years and now might consider doing so here at Advent.

Be aware that we are prepared to have a training session or two for both the experienced and those with less or no experience. Currently Corbin Cogswell assists at the early service and I at the late service.

If you feel that you could be a part of the "worship team", please call the church office and speak with Kathe or Fr. Alan. It would be great if we could have a procession once again!

-Pat Keltie

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Outreach is providing enrichment for children through the Sid Hicks fund. We voted \$500 to a local summer basketball camp for children in our area. One of our own little girls completed a year of gymnastics with her recital and will take another class in September.

We have found a way to support Ukrainian refugees through The Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Cherry Hill, NJ. The committee voted to sent \$1000 to help with their work at a center in Poland where they minister to the many needs of the refugees coming into Poland. Most refugees are women and children since the men stay in country to fight for their freedom. At this time The Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception run 6 centers in Ukraine and many in Poland. They are very grateful for our help in their mission.

Our next meeting will be September 21, 2022.

-Marrie Cassidy

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW's next fundraiser is on December 3, our annual Christmas Bazaar in the Parish Hall. Is that a long way off? Not when you're planning the best Christmas Bazaar ever! So, remember ECW when you are doing your summer cleaning out. Some of the tables at the bazaar will include antiques and collectibles, jewelry, Christmas Past (good, usable Christmas decorations), crafts... and more. A full list will be published soon and you know how fast summer goes by. It's never too early.

-Carol Obligado

WE NEED SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Each Sunday morning we have a few faithful folks who assist at each service to make sure the services flow smoothly. We really need more of you to participate in these rewarding ministries – ushers, readers, and chalcists are needed at each service and livestream operators are needed at the 10:30 service. Volunteers for each ministry will receive instructions so you will know what to do when. Our goal is to have enough participants so that those serving only need to be on duty once a month instead of every week as some currently are doing. Please contact the church office if you can join our Sunday service ministries. Thank you.

WILLIAM J. MOORE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

Celebrate West Cape May's African American Heritage on Sunday, July 31, 2022, 4:00 to 6:00 PM at West Cape May Elementary School, 301 Moore St., West Cape May. This commemorates the 150th birthday of William J. Moore with live music, entertainment, and light fare from Matt's Family Taste the Love food truck. Tickets are \$55 and a portion of your ticket goes directly to the William J. Moore Scholarship Foundation.

Founded in 1973, the foundation honors the legacy of William J. Moore, a legendary educator who, during the days of legal segregation, provided a half-century of exemplary leadership to West Cape May's school for African American students commonly known as the Annex. The foundation awards scholarship for financially challenged high school seniors throughout Cape May County.

William J. Moore graduated three generations of West Cape May's Black children. He was also Cape May's first tennis pro and the first Black tennis pro in America.

Order tickets online at www.wjmoore.org. Mailing checks, make payable to: William J. Moore Scholarship Foundation, PO Box 64, Cape May, NJ 08204. For additional information contact Karann Murphy-Colman at 215-880-7899.

July Birthday Celebrations**July Anniversary Celebrations**

2	Sally Snyder	16	Art & Patricia Bourgeau
3	David Craig		
3	Mimi Wood		
8	Katherine Trauger		
9	Bobby Andrzejczak		
12	Ivy Vasser		
14	Lynda Cogswell		
17	Georgeanna Sexton		
18	Brooklyn Bartle		
19	Scott Griffith		
19	Dale Morrison		
21	Sandi Eakin		
23	Jack Shaw		
25	Art Bourgeau		
25	Mary Ann Coyle		
30	Lorraine Shaw		
31	Bill Holmes		

August Birthday Celebrations**August Anniversary Celebrations**

2	Gary Reed	4	Pam Kelly & Robert Bullington
9	Richard Thompson	14	Jean & Robert Horn
13	Janzell Rodriquez	25	Glenda & Werner Unzelmann
14	Judy McCusker	31	Diane & Vincent DePietro
15	Boden Groetsch		
16	Suzanne Nardi		
18	Carol Hoffman		
18	Sandy Miller		
19	Sam Wilson		
20	Greta Shepanski		
23	Lorraine Brooks		
24	Heather Turner		
24	Christopher Wood		

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube

Wednesday: Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Church of the Advent Education Committee, along with the Sunday School Program, is proud to announce the return of our summertime Vacation Bible School. This year we will meet nightly beginning August 8 through August 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Cape May Point State Park. Our volunteers will provide activities such as bible storytelling, arts and crafts, recreation, and science. Any questions please reach out to Trisha Andrzejczak at trishaann423@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in person and ***learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis.***

