



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
March 17, 2026 Newsletter
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Father Tryggvi and Fran Hilsman attended the reception of Janel and Ricardo Urena into the Episcopal Church at The Cathedral of St. Philip. The Urenas are grateful to the entire Advent parish for being alongside with them on their journey to become full members of the Episcopal congregation.

Sermon Reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

All of us share certain foundations of faith. We believe in the one God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and we confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Yet even within this shared faith, we see the world somewhat differently. Our perspectives are shaped by our upbringing, family dynamics, culture, education, historical moment, and personal experiences. These influences help form who we are, but they can also shape our prejudices and the ways we perceive others. In that, we too often rely on assumptions or stereotypes built on limited information. Over time, however, genuine encounters with others can challenge those assumptions and invite us to see both people and God in new ways.

Jesus frequently disrupted the boundaries people built around faith and community. He healed on the Sabbath, ate with tax collectors and sinners, and touched those considered untouchable. In doing so, he challenged long-held ideas about who belongs and how God acts in the world. Through paradox and

unexpected actions, Jesus invited people to reconsider their understanding of God and their neighbors, reminding them that ultimate wisdom belongs to God rather than to human certainty.

In Sunday's Gospel, the story of the man born blind reveals how assumptions can cloud our vision. The disciples assume sin caused his blindness, but Jesus rejects that belief and restores his sight. Yet even after the healing, the community struggles to recognize him because they can't get beyond what they had seen him to be. The story confronts us with a choice: to remain blind within our assumptions or to allow Christ—the light of the world—to open our eyes the truth he came to proclaim, and to live by it.

Questions for Contemplation:

- *Where in my life might assumptions or past experiences be shaping how I see—or fail to see—another person?*
- *How might Christ be inviting me to open my eyes more fully to God, and to God's presence and truth in people or situations I have misunderstood?*

Peace, Tryggvi+

Wednesday evenings at Advent in Lent – third program Wednesday

We will not have supper, but our Lenten Program will continue: **7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Due to lack of volunteers to prepare soup, we will not have supper together this evening. However, we will continue with our Lenten program – “Bless the Lent We Actually Have” in the Parish House at 7:00 p.m. **The readings cover the last week: March 12-18.**

**** [Link to the devotional](#) ****

**** [RSVP March 18, 25](#) ****

**** [Volunteer for making soup](#) ****

Reminder: Holy Week

--Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 PM, Tenebrae

--Friday, April 3, 12:15 PM, Good Friday Service

--Saturday, April 4, 8:00 PM, The Great Vigil of Easter

Rota for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. South—10:30 A.M. T Pridgen

1st Reading: Hudson

2nd Reading: B Pridgen

Altar Guild: Bennett-Roman

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: K Jackson

Vestry of the Day: Burriss

Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

The Gospel: John 11:1-45

Parish Prayer List

Flossie Dodge, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Beth Tamplin Jones, Fr. Dann Brown, Jay Whitcomb, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jack Leo, Eric Wiemann, Susan Crosher, Gloria Leo, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Robert Boswell, Liz Cunningham, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Marcy Lay, Laura, Caroline, Kim Jackson, Monterey Powers, June Harrell, Wayne Tankersley, Penny Lyle

March Birthdays: **12** Dick Schmidt; **18** David Buck, Alicia Ramfos; **20** Mary Mack Hall; **22** Norinne Hurst; **23** Christine McCauley Watts; **30** David Dodge

Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, [click this link!](#)

Pastoral Care Requests: email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com for:

- Additions to the Prayer List
- Inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals
- Use of the Memorial Garden
- Requesting Eucharistic visits
- Short-term meals following surgery or during illness

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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