



Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's in our families that we see the reality of sin. "Give that back to me. That's mine." We see apologies urged on little children, "Give that back to your brother and tell him you're sorry." I remember wrestling with my brother as a child. But we didn't only squabble with each other. We genuinely cared about each other as we do today. In the family we see each other as sinners and saints. As we grow in faith, we realize that God has come in Christ to remove our sin from us and restore our relationships with him and each other especially in our family and among the brothers and sisters in the church.



Advent marks of the Christian new year. It's a time for new beginnings in the church and in our hearts.

What's exciting about Advent is that we hear again that Jesus, the righteous Son of God, has come into the flesh. In the Nicene Creed we confess: He "was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man." God born to Mary, became man, for us. Jesus was born into a family, so that we can be members of the family of God.

The theme for this month's TLO Disciple is "The Incarnation." Incarnate means: "In the flesh". I pray this month's TLO Disciple will help you stand firm in faith in God's Word that Jesus came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. At the Incarnation Jesus took on himself flesh and blood, yet was without sin, in order that he might be sin for us. The one who was with God from eternity, has taken upon himself human nature to save the world from sin. Jesus experienced life just like us. Jesus was hungry. He was thirsty. He grew tired. Jesus wept. As true man and true God, Jesus is our mediator between God and men.

In Jesus, God fulfilled his eternal covenant given to David that a descendant would one day establish his throne forever. Jesus, the righteous branch, has come, is here and we are saved. For on the cross, God's one and only Son, from eternity, is forsaken of God for your sake and mine. What a mysterious and marvelous gift!

Advent gives us the opportunity to remember the mighty works of God. It's a time to call on his name in repentance and faith, to worship Him for all He has done and tell others about him so that they too may believe. Our response to God's grace in The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is to have a heart of thankfulness. Isaiah writes: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me." And go work for God's kingdom. May the Lord bless you this Advent season that you may join in joyful procession and give praises to God saying: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Pastor James Kroonblawd