

honest advent sermon guide

Greetings!

Thanks for using Honest Advent as part of your seasonal meditation this year. As a former church staff member and a preacher, I know that figuring out a series takes a lot of work, effort, and preparation. I wanted to assist you in that by offering you a book, some sermon suggestions, and some accompanying artwork.

The book is focused on the question of “is Christ’s incarnation still happening in our midst?” Is Christmas a memorial service or a birthday party? And if it is a birthday party, where is Jesus now? My meditations through words and images is that we experience Jesus in our midst now through the vulnerability of incarnation. The Word of God was incarnated through human vulnerability, and we can connect with Jesus through that same human vulnerability.

Below is listed five different topics that you choose from for the four Advent Sundays and the Christmas eve celebration.

VULNERABILITY

read chapters: Vulnerability, Motherhood, Mighty, Omega

The main idea here is the place where we connect with Jesus is through our vulnerability. We can see all throughout the Gospels people connecting with Jesus thru their vulnerabilities. The teacher Nicodemus saying “I don’t get it”. The powerful Roman centurion who has no power to heal his servant. The sick woman who has now power to heal her body. The traitorous Zaccheus who doesn’t know how to get back into the family. Our starting point is our vulnerabilities, our weaknesses, the places where we aren’t enough or not doing it right.

LOVE

read chapters: Unease, Seen, Given, Alpha

Love is freely given. Love comes to us without us earning it. Love is leading and growing us into the people It desires. Love is participating in our world. To be a christian is to receive love, not earn it.

What is the conversation I can only have by being in the situation I find myself in?

IDENTITY

read chapters: Light, Room, Unexpected

What is the unseen part of us? Our soul. Where is that soul anchored? Who is the author and perfecter of our faith? Our identity is rooted in God, and Jesus is the Light that illuminates that path.

EMBODIMENT

read chapters: Breath, Goop, Sacred

How can we experience God in our bodies... not just our head? Jesus participated in a human body, and we are invited to do the same daily.

Spiritual practices of breathing prayers, silence, solitude, generosity, hospitality, affection.

PARTICIPATION

read chapters: Attention, Need, With, Fear

God is with us. With. Alongside. In the mix. Spiritual truths cannot be fully know through observation, only by participation. "Be not afraid" is said to let us know that we are not alone. Our fears often stand in the way of us participating with God.

"Be Not Afraid" could be a legit substitution for "Merry Christmas"

I know you'll be able to fill in the gaps with your knowledge of scripture and good storytelling. Thank you for all that you do!

Scott