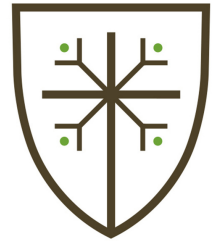


# SERMON NOTES



## *Life in Between Two Advents*

December 3, 2023

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"Life In Between Advents"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

Isaiah 64:1-4

1 Peter 1:1, 3-9

Mark 13:24-27, 32-37

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. What can we do in order to help one another live as exiles in this world instead of assimilating to it?
2. How does suffering bring about the joy that characterizes those who have been born again?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This Sunday, Tim began a new series for the season of Advent on 1 Peter. And we considered the Advent question, "Are you watching and waiting for the second coming? And what do we need to be prepared for it?"

#### Setting

Peter is writing from Rome here and he knows that something is coming. He sees the persecutions. He tells the Church to "be prepared," watching and waiting. And he calls them "exiles." Tim made the very important distinction between exiles and immigrants here. Peter doesn't call the Christians immigrants, but exiles. Both leave their own home but immigrants leave with no plan to return. They are leaving their own country for good and ready to be assimilated into the new country. Exiles have a home country to which they plan to return. Their situation is temporary. Peter says that for Christians, this world is not our home and we should not seek to make it so.

As those living in exiles, we have an inheritance, one unlike any earthly wealth that we could imagine. And while all our earthly treasures and gifts will fade and be consumed, your heavenly gifts will never fade away, never be consumed.

#### Need

Peter says that what we need in order to be prepared is to be born again. Because everyone apart from God is like the dry bones in the book of Ezekiel, lying lifeless in the valley and only able to come to life through God's very breath upon them. Jesus became that valley of dry bones for us, in order for that which was dead to have new life. If you are a Christian, true divine life resides in you.

We see this most poignantly in our sufferings, and in the lives of those who have suffered most on this earth. Because the primary sign that you have been born again is joy - a joy that is deeper than the circumstances of suffering could ever reach and that brings life to the dead places.

This advent we are called, once again, to watch and to wait for the one who brings life into the dead places of our souls, the one who delights to give us all the treasures of our spiritual inheritance in him.