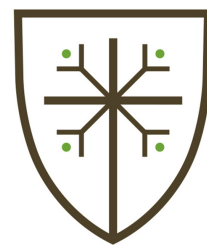




# PALPABLE DISSONANCE

Advent Sermon Series

# SERMON NOTES



November 27, 2022

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

Palpable Dissonance: Keeping Advent

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Isaiah 2:2, 4-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 23:37; 24:1-3

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Tim gave us four actions for this Advent season. Consider how you might take on one or more of these things:

1. Come to worship. Simply show up for these four weeks and see how God works to change you.
2. Read the Scriptures. Advent is 27 days long this year. For 27 days commit to reading a portion of the Bible and listening to the Word from God you find there.
3. Spend time with someone poor in Spirit. Jesus says, "blessed are the poor in Spirit." Why? Because they can see God. They can see God working and heed the warnings of Advent unlike those simply going about life with a nonchalance toward God.
4. Cast off something. For the 27 days of Advent, lay aside something that distracts, something that keeps you from remembering that Christ's second coming, the end of the world, is near.

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

Tim began our sermon series for Advent today, talking about the ominous beginning to a season we so often associate with nostalgia and comfort. But Advent doesn't begin with a baby Jesus in the manger. It begins with Jesus as the crucified and risen king preparing to judge the world. So, how do we mark the season as Christians and how does it mark us?

First, we must heed its reality. The reality of Advent is that judgement is coming. Advent calls us to repentance, literally to turning from something toward something else. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem in our passage. And he warns of the destruction of the temple – the thing that looms larger than life, that is the center of so much of both sacred and secular life in Jerusalem, reduced to rubble. But his warning is for our time as well. We all have our "temples," the things in our life that are large and significant, that we want everyone to know about – careers, family, relationships, achievements. The reality of Advent is the destruction of these things in which we place our value, all our worth. In order that we might turn towards him who is worth all.

Second, we must imagine the setting. Advent is a call to remember the end of days. In our gospel passage, Jesus emphasizes again and again, that the time is near and the time is unknown. Like the flood in the days of Noah, it will come when everything seems normal, when the world is "eating, and drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage." So, we must live in expectation and readiness that the end is near. We cannot fall into an attitude of nonchalance about God.

And thirdly, we must make the changes needed in order that this season of waiting might mark us. What can make us change? Sometimes only losing that which we hold most precious. Jesus is not just judge, and he is not just savior. He is both savior and judge. He loves us so much that he will take away everything necessary in order for us to see the salvation we so desperately need.