

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent* *December 20, 2020*

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### **TIME OF REFLECTION**

“The Son is the Father’s All.”

~Athanasius (c. 196-373 AD), North African theologian and church leader

“God cannot be Word-less, for the Word is God. Here then is a God who could never be anything but communicative, expansive, outgoing. Since God cannot be without this Word, he simply could not ever be reclusive.”

~Michael Reeves, president of Union School of Theology (Oxford)

“All praise to Thee, eternal Lord,  
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;  
Choosing a manger for a throne,  
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.”

“This is that mystery which is rich in divine grace unto sinners: wherein by a wonderful exchange, our sins are no longer ours but Christ’s; and the righteousness of Christ is not Christ’s but ours. He has emptied himself of his righteousness that he might clothe us in it, and fill us with it: and he has taken our evils upon himself that he might deliver us from them.”

~Martin Luther (1483-1546), German pastor-reformer

“God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.”

~St. Augustine (354-430), bishop in North Africa

“Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.”

~David Augsburger in *Caring Enough to Confront*

“...the mystery...that Almighty God would come down...in the person of Jesus Christ and became one of us.... There is really nothing like that incredible social inversion of Almighty God coming here and living with us and dying with us.”

~Anne Rice, author of *The Vampire Chronicles*

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “God Incarnate” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *selections from Hebrews 1 & 2 (ESV)*

### *Hebrews 1*

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs...

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

### *Hebrews 2*

<sup>9</sup> ...we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers....

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.