

Advent 2023 “Jesus, God in the flesh”

John 1:14

December 10, 2023

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus fully God and fully man.

Arius and St. Nick

“We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father.” - Nicene Creed

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Love was first before performance.

The Word “became” flesh.

Philippians 2:7

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

“dwelt among us”

Exodus 25:8

8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

2 Samuel 7:2

2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

2 Chronicles 6:1-2,18

1 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. 2 But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."

18 "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!

"and we have seen his glory"

Hebrews 1:3

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

We can know God and be sure that God knows us.

Hebrews 2:17

"made like his brothers in every respect."

Augustine Quote - "Man's Maker was made man, that He, Ruler of the stars might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die."

"What Christ has not assumed he has not healed."

What God takes on, he also saves.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What encouragement can we gain from the desire of God seen throughout the scripture to be with His people and dwell among us? What might this mean for those times God feels far away?
- 3.) Hebrews 2:17 says that Jesus was made like us in every respect. What might this mean about the compassion and mercy of God in that He has "walked in our shoes?"
- 4.) Consider and discuss: How does the gospel change if Jesus is not both fully God and fully man?

5.) John's gospel seems set on the reader understanding that God has truly made Himself known to us through Jesus. What is something recent you are learning about God through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus?

6.) How is the gospel hope connected to a renewed flesh and bone body because Jesus came in the flesh? How is Christmas connected to a tangible and material creation?

7.) Spend some time praying for one another and sharing your desire for the truth of the incarnation to be transformative in the life of the group?