

Sermon

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Co-Lead Pastor

A D V E N T

WAITING WELL

**We are advent people:
people awaiting the arrival of Jesus**

Advent is not for the faint of heart.

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What does it look like to “wait well” with hope?

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan —

**The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.**

Isaiah 9:1-7

**You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.**

**For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their
shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.**

**Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment
rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for
the fire.**

Isaiah 9:1-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:1-7

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:1-7

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**God's people hope for:
Joy, provision, freedom, and peace**

Describing King Jesus:

Wonderful Counselor - his qualification to be king

Mighty God - his royal description

Everlasting Father - his relationship to citizens

Prince of Peace - the type of society his reign will create

We live in the “now” but also “not yet” reality of the Kingdom coming, but not fully here.

We live in the “now” but also “not yet” reality of the Kingdom coming, but not fully here.

We are people of the in-between.

"In a very real sense, Christian Community lives in advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between, because the people of God live in *the time between* the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming in glory...

Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the now and the not-yet that our faith requires."

- Fleming Rutledge *Advent*

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ADVENT 1 - The first coming of Jesus incarnate

ADVENT 2 - The Spirit of God coming in our midst every day to lead us to join God’s work in the world

ADVENT 3 - The second coming of Jesus in glory

**EMBRACE OUR IDENTITY AS COURAGEOUS
“PEOPLE OF THE IN-BETWEEN”:**

People of longing AND hope

People of joy AND sorrow

People of action AND patience (long suffering)

People of waiting AND hastening (accelerating)

Jesus arrival (advent) means we have hope for:

Joy, provision, freedom and peace.

- 1. Which one of the four have you recently experienced in life? (now)**
- 2. Which one of the four are you currently longing for in life? (not yet)**

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