

Sermon Notes Dec 18 2022

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Psalm 24:9-10

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
10 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory.

Romans 1:1-4

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord... grace to you...

Matthew 1:22-25

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Every adventure begins a "Yes"

Scott Calvin was an unassuming family man until a guy in a red suit falls off his roof. When Calvin checks to see if the guy is okay, he finds a card that reads: "If something should happen to me, put on my suit. The reindeer will know what to do." All the adventures in The Santa Clause – not to mention its sequels – take place because Calvin said yes to the suit.

<Image of Movie Poster from The Santa Clause>

Bilbo was an unassuming hobbit living a quiet bachelor life in the Shire until thirteen dwarves and one Wizard show up for a dinner party Bilbo had no intention of throwing. After the meal, Bilbo is presented with a contract entitling him to 1/14 the spoils if he will agree to accompany them to the Lonely Mountain and serve as their burglar. All that unfolds in JRR Tolkien's The Hobbit – not to mention the Lord of the Rings Trilogy – take place because Bilbo said yet to the contract.

<Image of movie poster from The Hobbit>

When we say yes to invitation, yes to offer letter, yes to the marriage proposal... whenever we say yes to the unknown, that's when the adventure starts.

One of the reasons I love to hear all four Scripture passages from the lectionary is because it helps me see catch a glimpse of just how big God's plans are. Isaiah's prophecy was given to King Ahaz hundreds of years before Jesus' birth. God's plans don't just cover a long time... they cover all time! The Psalmist sings that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." God's dominion doesn't just cover most things... it extends over all things! The apostle Paul tells us that God's just rule and all-emcompassing plan has a name: It is called The Gospel, and at the center of this plan is God's promise, kept: Jesus Christ, heir to King David, has come into the world and been raised from the dead and has been revealed as King of All Creation. And all this happened because a young woman named Mary and her fiancé Joseph said "yes" to God's plan.

<Image of the Nativity Scene>

It's amazing what God can do with a little "yes" isn't it?

The idea that I've wanted to share with you through Advent this year is that, even though Advent is about waiting, our *waiting* involves a lot of *working*. Our *anticipation* gets expressed as *preparation*. One little "yes" sets off a whole new adventure.

- I'm thinking about what has happened since you said "yes" to having me as your transitional pastor...
- I'm thinking about what will happen now that you have said "yes" to helping to plant a new church...

And I'm thinking about how, when we say "yes" to God, we are making a powerful declaration that....

Jesus Christ is truly Emmanuel, God-with-us NOW – not just while Jesus walked among us 2000 years ago. And...

Jesus Christ is truly the King of Glory NOW – not just when Jesus returns at culmination of God's plan.

So practically speaking, **what does it mean for us that Jesus Christ is King of all Creation?**

It means **we know that Jesus has it all handled.**

Jesus can Multi-Task: Jesus can take care of the church, and each and every person in the church, and me, and Pastor Janet, and the new the church planting pastor, and all

the people God is going to draw to himself through the new church plant... Jesus can handle all that! He is King of EVERYthing! He's got this!

And practically speaking, [what does it mean for us to Lift up Jesus Christ as King of all Creation?](#)

It means we continue to do the work we've been talking about throughout advent.

We keep:

- **We keep blessing our neighbors.** We continue to Pursue the Peace and Prosperity of Your Community
- **We keep encouraging one another.** We continue to Fan the Flame of Hope in One Another
- **We keep choosing to trust God over anything or anyone else.** We continue to Put Our Faith in God Alone

These are three very big "yeses." Keep saying them. Keep living into them. Keep your minds clear, your hearts open, your bodies grounded in reality. And keep saying yes.

Amen!