

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DECEMBER 5, 2021

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Andy Rauschkolb kicked off our Advent series, looking at the promises fulfilled by Jesus. We are in season of Advent. Advent means to wait, or be expectant, of an arrival. In Advent we celebrate Emmanuel (God with us) as a past promise, a present reality, and our future hope. The first advent was fulfilled at Jesus' birth, and through his life he made the way for us to be made right with God. When Jesus died, resurrected and returned to heaven, God gave us the Holy Spirit who lives within us, who is with us always. Jesus promised to return to earth to make everything new, and that is the promise of hope we wait expectantly in this time. As we wait, we do not wait alone.

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 7:14 NIV

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

MATTHEW 1:18-25 NIV

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

JOHN 14:15-18 NIV

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

REVELATION 21:3-5

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

REVELATION 22:20

"He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Andy's message?
2. Read Isaiah 7:14. What is the promise God gave through Isaiah?
3. Read Matthew 1:18-24. How was this promise fulfilled?
4. Read John 14:15-18. What promise is given and fulfilled, and to whom?
5. What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit lives within you? (Think of benefits and responsibilities)
6. Read Revelation 21:3-5, 22:20. What is the promise that makes us people of the Second Advent?
7. As you wait for Jesus to return, how should you live in the waiting period? Consider these prompts and be specific in your answer – ex. "I will make time to remember the goodness of God every time I'm wished Merry Christmas":
 - a. Make time to remember the goodness of God.
 - b. Pay attention to what Jesus would pay attention to.
 - c. Live as though you believe God's got this.
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for the promise in the past of Emmanuel, the fulfillment of God with us in the present time, and the promise that Jesus is coming again to make all things new. Pray for one another to live purposefully in the season of Advent, knowing God is with you, in power and in truth. Ask God to remind you of his promises every time someone wishes you a Merry Christmas this season.