

Message #1040  
Rev. Jack C. Longley

"HE CAME...HE COMES...AND HE WILL COME AGAIN"  
{John 1:14-16}

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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#### INTRODUCTION

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...{and}...the Word became flesh and lived for a while among us!" {John 1:1, 14a}

In an article published in the December 8, 1997, edition of Christianity Today, Mary Ellen Ashcroft wrote...

"To get ready for Advent, God undressed...God stripped off His finery and appeared--how embarrassing--naked on the day He was born. God rips off medals and rank, puts aside titles, honors, and talents, and appears in His birthday suit. 'Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.'"

"The Word became human and lived here on earth among us!" {John 1:14a, NLT}

To communicate to those whom He had created...

...God chose flesh!

...God became one of us!

...God made a planned and necessary entrance into our world.

To prepare for the first Advent, God undressed and put on flesh. Now He is preparing for yet another Advent by putting on robes of glory!

THE THREE ADVENTS OF JESUS: JESUS CAME...JESUS COMES...AND JESUS WILL COME AGAIN!

#### 1. JESUS CAME {Past Tense}

For the past three Sundays we've been discussing these verses found in the fourth gospel.

...the Word {Logos} that was in the beginning

...the Word {Logos} that was with God

...the Word {Logos} that was God

...the Word {Logos} that was with God in the beginning

...the Word {Logos} through whom all things were made

...the Word {Logos} who was life

...the Word {Logos} that provides light

...the Word {Logos} who came to His own and was not recognized and received for who He was And, now today...the Word {Logos} who became flesh and lived among us! Why?

Why would this one who was "very nature God"... "...not consider equality with God something to be grasped, and made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, being found in appearance as a man...

{Philippians 2:6-8a}

Why would the Word {Logos} humble Himself?  
William Booth Clibborn wrote about it in his well-known gospel song...  
"Down from His glory,  
Ever living story,  
My God and Savior came,  
And Jesus was His name,  
Born in a manger,  
To his own a stranger,  
A man of sorrows, tears and agony.

What condescension, Bringing us redemption;  
That in the dead of night,  
Not one faint hope in sight,  
God, gracious, tender,  
Laid aside His splendor,  
Stooping to woo, to win, to save my soul.

Without reluctance,  
Flesh and blood His substance,  
He took the form of man,  
Revealed the hidden plan."

There are three reasons He came...  
1. To show us what God is really like!  
2. To seek and save that which is lost--to bring hope!  
3. To offer life...abundant...eternal life!  
From Moses we received the Law  
From the Word {Logos} GRACE is offered to all...  
G--Gods  
R--riches  
A--at  
C--Christ's  
E--expense  
David wrote in the Psalms...

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him..."  
{Psalm 103:8-17}

...as a demonstration of His love...His compassion...God sent the Word {Logos}--  
Jesus--in human form to this earth ...think of it!

Paul tried to describe this love for us in Ephesians...

"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God!" {Ephesians 3:19}

So...in His first advent, Christ came to earth in bodily form--GOD WITH SKIN...and secondly...

## 2. CHRIST COMES TODAY {Present Tense}

In the Book of Revelation we hear Jesus saying...

"Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear Me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends." {3:20 NLT}

Christ is standing outside the door of an individual's life seeking entrance...

...desiring to make a difference in that person's life

...offering to make that one new

...offering life He knocks...and knocks...waiting for a response and entrance!

...He will not impose

...He will not enter via force

...He knocks

Remember the Beetle's song written by Paul McCartney..."Let 'Em In" "Someone's knocking at the door, somebody's ringing the bell, someone's knocking at the door, somebody's ringing the bell, do me a favor, open the door and let 'em in.

Sister Suzie, brother John, Martin Luther, Phil and Don, uncle Ernie, auntie Jin, open the door, let 'em in, oh yeah...let'em in!"

God desires a relationship with those whom He created...with you...and with me!

Jesus defined His mission on earth to...

..."preach the good news of the Kingdom of God" {Luke 4:43}

..."seek and to save what was lost" {Luke 19:10}

..."not to condemn the world, but to save the world" {John 3:17}

..."to open the eyes of the blind..." {John 9:39b}

..."to come that ALL may have life...and have it to the full!" {John 10:10}

..."...not come to judge the world but to save it!" {John 12:47}

..."...to testify of truth...!" {John 18:37}

..."...to show {us} the Father...!"

Knock! Knock! Christ knocks at the door of your heart offering you an incredible new life! Will you invite Him in or leave Him standing out in the cold?

...open the door

...He will come in

...and wow...what a trip it is!

So, Christ came....Christ comes...and...

### 3. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN {Future Tense}

Jesus had given His disciples their final instructions following His resurrection. He promised them incredible power for their lives and suddenly He ascended into Heaven and two angels appeared and said to those stunned disciples...

"Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will COME back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." {Acts 1:11}

The Prophet Zechariah wrote of this event...

"...the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be one Lord--His name alone will be worshiped." {9:9}

Paul described it in Philippians...

"God gave Him a name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus ever knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!" {2:9b-11}

Jesus came as was promised hundreds of years before His birth by the prophets.

Jesus comes into our lives when we open the door and invite Him in.

And...Jesus will come again...just as the scriptures teach.  
At His first coming He came as a Baby in weakness, in meekness, and in obscurity.  
When He returns He will come in power and glory and assert His will over ALL the earth.  
He came into the world naked...stripped of His finery  
He will return robed in splendor.  
Very few bowed before Him at His first coming  
When He comes again...ALL knees will bow and proclaim Him Lord!  
When He came very few knew of His arrival.  
When He returns the whole earth will know...every eye will see Him and recognize Him.  
He came in great humility as a servant.  
He will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!  
He came as Savior!  
He will return as our Sovereign!

#### CONCLUSION

Thank God for His incredible love...His mercy...and His grace...  
...who sent His Son as the Logos...to save  
...who sends His Son to all who let Him into their life  
...who has promised that He will one day return in power and glory!  
What hope is ours!  
"GOD IS GOOD....ALL THE TIME... ...ALL THE TIME...GOD IS GOOD!"