

10/2 -- Communion Sunday

**Color:** green

**Scripture:** 2Timothy 1:8-14

**Title:** *I Know Whom I Have Believed*

**Topic:** There is a lot in this introductory paragraph of Paul's second letter to Timothy. Paul seems to be concerned for the future of the faith when he (Paul) is gone. He reminds Tim of the essence of faith—through grace we have victory over death. He then says that there is a source of courage he has had all these years—I know whom I have believed.... The topic will be about faith, grace, knowing Jesus.

10/9

**Color:** green

**Scripture:** Luke 17:11-19

**Title:** *Thankful?*

**Topic:** This is a pretty well-known scripture about ten lepers that were healed and only one returned to give thanks. It will be a pretty straightforward sermon with plenty of speculation about the nine that did not return thankful. That way, we can imagine how we might fit in their sandals....

10/16

**Color:** green

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 31:27-30

**Title:** *A New Promise*

**Topic:** The ancient Hebrew way of understanding the promises of God was that these promises were realized within the temporal/political realm. The life that one had after death was contained within one's progeny—children, grandchildren, etc.. Thus, punishment for one's sins was to be felt for generations onward. Jeremiah prophecies a new way—one that coincides with the coming of the messiah and a new covenant.... Main point will be grace and forgiveness with Jesus the Messiah.

10/23

**Color:** green

**Scripture:** 2Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

**Title:** *Jesus and Me*

**Topic:** What does it mean to us that the Lord is with us? That meaning probably changes as we go through life, but Paul writes about what it means at life's end. He has great confidence. It is interesting to me that it is in retrospect that he recognizes Christ's being with him. How might we know as Paul knew? I'll propose soul searching, asking for insight, accepting assurance.... Topic might be faith....

10/30

**Color:** green

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

**Title:** *Seeing Jesus*

**Topic:** This is a beloved story of Zacchaeus. He wanted to see Jesus and when he did, his life was changed. I like the part of the story where Jesus stops and looks up at Zach. We are not going to see Jesus and not be seen ourselves.... Their mutual seeing of one another led to an amazing change in Zach. Have you ever wanted to see Jesus? How might we see Jesus? Topic is the Lordship of Christ.

11/7 All Saints Sunday; Communion Sunday

**Color:** white

**Scripture:** Luke 20:27-38

**Title:** *God of the Living*

**Topic:** Today is All Saints Sunday and we will light a candle for all those who have gone before us during the past year. Jesus is very clear—those who have gone before are not dead, but are alive! This is our hope and our inheritance....

11/13

**Color:** green

**Scripture:** Luke 9:21-26

**Title:** *Christians?*

**Topic:** Right after Peter makes his famous profession that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells them that he will suffer and die. Then he predicts the suffering and death of his followers. Are we followers of Jesus? How does the world know it? I'll propose that rule following and respectability are not the evidence that Christ has predicted. Rather he calls us to sacrifice our respectability for Christ....

11/20 Christ the King Sunday

**Color:** white

**Scripture:** Luke 21:25-28

**Title:** *Christ Will Come Again*

**Topic:** Today's title is one of the phrases we say in our communion liturgy. I'll look at the Old Testament and the New Testament to see what we might be doing as we wait for Jesus. We will wait, stand firm, and carry on....

11/27 First Sunday of Advent

**Color:** purple

**Scripture:** Isaiah 2:1-5

**Sermon:** *Hoping for Peace*

**Topic:** Isaiah wrote to a people who saw themselves as afflicted by God, and yet he proclaimed peace—peace with God and peace on earth. What might this promise have meant to them? Do we long for peace today? What kind of peace do we long for? This year, as we journey through advent, what might this promise of peace—the coming of a Messiah—mean for us? Topic Peace

12/4 Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday

**Color:** purple

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-12

**Title:** *Prepare the Way*

**Topic:** People were expecting a Messiah. Jesus had already been born, but had yet to be introduced to the people. John the Baptist appears on the scene to prepare the way as had been predicted. The heart of John's message is "repent." Apparently repentance is important for those expecting their deliverer. Matthew was written for Jewish readers in the first century. John's warning to the religious leaders would have had great significance for Jews. What about for us? Do we simply cheer for John or is repentance important as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah?

12/11 Third Sunday of Advent

**Color:** purple

**Scripture:** Matthew 11:2-15

**Title:** *Expectations*

**Topic:** It is a little bit puzzling to me that this passage is in the lectionary for today. Here, Jesus has already begun his ministry and John is now having doubts about whether Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is not doing Messianic things that John had hoped for. After Jesus answers John's question, he turns that question to the crowd—"What are you expecting?" This raises the question for us, what are we expecting this Christmas? Might we be mistaken and have doubts when those expectations are not met? Jesus concludes with an assertion that indeed he is the Messiah. We can take comfort in his words.

12/18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Color:** purple

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Title:** *A Righteous Man*

**Topic:** I'll take a closer look at Joseph and some of the myth that has accumulated around him over the ages. These days, however, historians are trying to recover some of the real down-to-earth Joseph and the birth of Jesus. I think that is good for us in our times. We need a manger scene with more clay and less porcelain. Christ has come into a real world for you and for me....

12/25 Christmas Day

**Color:** white

**Scripture:** John 1:1-14

**Title:** *Incarnation*

**Topic:** John reveals a deeper insight into the long-awaited Messiah. While we take it for granted—part of our Trinitarian doctrine—that Jesus is one with God, this assertion would have been a dramatic leap for a first century believer. As we gather on this wonderful and long-awaited day, what might it mean for us? Topic: Divinity of Jesus, Lordship of Jesus, Faith.