**2020 Advent Weekly Devotion**

**DHUMC**

**Week One, December 2, 2020**

Our Advent devotion for 2020 will use as its foundation Adam Hamilton’s, ***Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas.*** We will spend the next four weeks gaining a better understanding of the personification of Jesus. Our first session will help us understand what it means to call Jesus “King”, why Jesus’ followers believe him to be the Messiah and how we can give witness to these facts.

Depending on your age, you can recall several campaign slogans of various presidential candidates.

“It’s Morning in America” (Ronald Reagan, 1984)

“Country First” (John McCain, 2008)

“Yes, We Can” (Barack Obama, 2008)

“Happy Days are Here Again” (Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1932)

“This season [of Advent] puts into perspective all our political wrangling; whatever Christians think about their president, and whoever we voted for in the various elections, we are meant to know that there is only one King. It is to him we give our highest allegiance.” (Incarnation,17)

Let’s explore what it meant to Jesus’ first followers to call him King and how calling him King helps us grow in our faith and obedience today.

Think about ceremonies or rituals such a ordination, white coat ceremonies, installations, inaugurations, coronations etc. that set folks aside for special functions or purposes. Many of these ceremonies contain some type of “anointing”. It may be laying on of hands, a pinning, placing a “mantle” of some kind. In ancient Israel, Kings were anointed with oil. David was the ideal King of Israel.

**Read:** Luke 1:12-38

**Answer: Reply to the email with some of your thoughts.**

How do Gabriel’s words about Jesus echo Israel’s messianic hope? How do you imagine Mary, a devout Jew, felt about the Angel’s words?

Based on the ministry of Jesus, what do you think the first followers of Jesus believed him to be the Messiah?

What incidents from Jesus’ life show that his idea of “King” differed from the rulers and kings of his day? How do they differ from the idea of those in positions of power today?

**Read:** Revelation 19:11-16 (One vision of Jesus’ triumphant return, breaking the hold of sin, evil and death)

**Answer: Reply to email with some of your thoughts.**

How does this imagery reflect Jesus’ kingship? Is it consistent with his life and ministry? Why?

**Respond to Quotes** by answering the questions in a reply email

“Though we live in that time between triumphs, the triumph of the resurrection and that of the Second Coming, the first give us confidence in the second.” (Incarnation, 39)

How confident do you feel this Advent season in Jesus’ ultimate triumph as King? Why?

“I don’t believe it is an understatement to say that [Jesus] is the single most influential person to have walked this planet.” (Hamilton, Incarnation, 39)

Agree or not? Why?

Is it still important for us to continue to call Jesus King? Why?

What are some other titles that might help folks understand Jesus in the way the title of *king* does?

“I don’t know your politics, but if you are a Christian, I know your King. His sermon on the Mount, his parables, and his great commandments calling us to love God and neighbor represents the laws of his kingdom. Our allegiance to him comes above all other allegiances.” (Incarnation, 41-42)

What are some specific places or relationships where you can witness to Jesus’ rule in a specific way this Advent season?

**Prayer:**

Eternal God, through the ages your people have longed for a righteous ruler who will speed the day your will is finally done on earth as in heaven. In Jesus, you anointed One, you anointed us to do your will as citizens of your kingdom. By your Spirit, keep us strong and hopeful as his faithful and obedient subjects, Amen.