



Growth Group Questions
December 1, 2024
“A Brand New Home”

Scripture:

"Advent is...superficially understood as a time to get ready for Christmas, but in truth it's the season for contemplating the judgment of God. Advent is the season that, when properly understood, does not flinch from the darkness that stalks us all in this world. Advent begins in the dark and moves toward the light—but the season should not move too quickly or too glibly, lest we fail to acknowledge the depth of the darkness." - **Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ***

Genesis 1:31

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 3:1-10

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” ⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in



the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Genesis 3:21-24

²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[a] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Mark 8:31-33

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Questions:

1. December 1st is the first Sunday of Advent. Pastor Paul read to us a description of advent written by Fleming Rutledge from her book *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*. What is your reaction to Rev. Rutledge's description of Advent? Why do you think it is important for us to consider Advent in this way?
2. In introducing the December's sermon series, "Home for Christmas," Pastor Paul referenced Frederick Buechner's book *The Longing for Home*, when he talked about "the home we know" and "the home we dream." What comes to your mind when you think about "the home you know"? What comes to your mind when you think about "the home you dream"?
3. In Genesis 3:1-10, we read about the transformation of Adam and Eve that occurred when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What was different about them after they ate of this tree?
4. In Genesis 3:8-10, we learn that God walked through the garden looking for Adam and Eve and that he asked "Where are you?" What is so significant about this?
5. What Bible verses help you to better know and understand God's desire to have a relationship with each of us?
6. In Genesis 3:21, we are told that God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve because the garments they made for themselves were not good enough. What is the significance of the garments that God made for Adam and Eve?
7. Pastor Paul told us that the virgin birth of Jesus is important because it means that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Why is this so important to us as Christians?
8. What does it mean to be "clothed with Christ"? (Galatians 3:27)

Pastor Paul's Sermon Questions:

1. What is something "intentional" that you can be praying about **EVERY** day during this Advent season?
2. Is there a time when you felt Jesus showed up for you, or a time you felt like Jesus was walking with you? How has that impacted you?