

Together, We Wait: Week 3—We Watch

Text: John 1:6-8,19-28

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What is one of the craziest things you've ever seen?*
2. *What do you most long for during this Advent season of waiting?*

Digging In

Read **John 1:1-8**.

Questions:

1. *In what ways is John the Baptist differentiated from the Word, or Jesus?*
2. *What do you think it means to be a witness?*
3. *What other roles do you see Christians tempted to take on other than witness?*
4. *What might be harmful about Christians taking on a role other than witness?*

Read **John 1:19-28**.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think John begins to answer the religious leader's questions about who he is by telling them who he is not?*
2. *What is significant about who John finally says that he is instead?*

John answers the religious leaders by quoting Isaiah 40. It is a passage we listened to last week, an Advent passage, where God invites His people to proclaim the Good News that God is present as a Shepherd, gathering, carrying, and gently leading His people. Isaiah 40 is a call to us to cry out in witness to this Good News. When John uses this language it is a message to all of us: he is being a witness *as all of us are called to be a witness*.

Questions:

1. *Who has been a witness to you of God's presence, grace, goodness, and/or salvation?*
2. *In what ways have you experienced Christian witness at harmful or unhelpful?*
3. *In what ways have you experienced Christian witness and powerful and beneficial?*

Sending Out

Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God/Heaven as hidden, but very present: Read **Matthew 13:31-33**.

The earliest Christians spoke of Jesus and His Good News in this way, as a mystery hidden among us and now revealed to us in the Person of Jesus: Read **Colossians 1:24-27**.

These passages are reminders that the resurrected Christ not only came, not only *will come*, but also is *currently coming*. It is what we remember and anticipate each Advent. Christ, already here, already moving, working, saving, restoring. Our calling is to open our eyes and notice. We are to be on watch so that we can give witness when we see God at work among us, "That's it!"

Questions:

1. *Where, recently, have you seen the Kingdom of God at work in your family, neighborhood, church, or world?*
2. *Where, recently, have you had an encounter with the Resurrected Christ?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "*What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?*"

Close with prayer.