

Pastor Letter 12/2/20

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The advent season is officially upon us. Advent, as you likely know, is long been understood as a time of waiting. Waiting for what has already occurred but, has not yet been fully realized. However, 2020 has given “waiting” a whole new meaning. Waiting since early March looked more like waiting for the curve to flatten, waiting for news of a vaccine, waiting for definitive guidance, waiting to get out of lockdown, waiting to get into grocery and other stores, waiting for testing results, waiting for procedures to be rescheduled, waiting to reunite with friends and family, waiting for the pandemic to end, waiting for some ever shifting new normal, whatever that will look like. It seems that the concept of advent waiting must be redefined as well. Over the course of this advent season will be a sermon series that will explore a redefining, a rediscovery, of the Christmas message in these strange and ever fluid times.

I would invite you to join us this Sunday for the first of this sermon series, redefining and rediscovering peace. As of now, we continue with the hybrid in- person worship for this season of waiting. This means, as we have been doing, this allows approximately 30 people in the sanctuary, which includes those leading and managing technology. We continue to have overflow rooms available and the masks continue to be worn. Also, if you feel more comfortable worshipping at home, you can join us live on YouTube or Facebook. I joined in this week remotely and it was great to be a part of worship with you, even when I was not physically present. There are many ways of understanding this new season of waiting. I hope you can join me this Sunday in the first of sermons on redefining what peace, joy and love means in our season of waiting for the not fully realized coming of Christ again.

In Christ Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Some helpful links...

click on the link below near the time the service begins at 10:00am to watch the live stream

<https://www.facebook.com/espresbyterian/>

YouTube live and video recordings <https://www.espresbyterian.com/worship/> or

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ESPresbyterian>

Additionally, bulletins and an online hymnal have been put on the website and can be found at <https://www.espresbyterian.com/worship/sunday-bulletin/>