



Jesus the True Temple

3rd in the Advent Series

December 14, 2025

Pastor Casey Ehlers

Introduction: In this Advent message, we trace the beautiful trajectory of the temple and “God with Us” in the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ – the ‘tabernacling’ one.

Advent Series Theme: God’s plan to be “God with us” is the story that all of Scripture tells, from Genesis to Revelation. God desires to dwell with His people, and that is the goal of Creation, Israel, **the Incarnation**, and the New Creation.

- 1) All of the Old Testament, from Creation to the people of God, the sacrificial system, and the temple, points to Jesus.
 - a) Glimpses of ‘God with Us’ in the life, ministry, and death of Jesus:
 - John 1:1-5; 14
 - John 1:43-51
 - John 2:13-22
 - John 20:11-18
- 2) The message of “God with us” in the New Testament teaches the church today three things about God’s intentions to dwell with us.
 - a) God goes to great lengths to be with his people!
 - b) The church, cumulatively together, makes up the New Covenant’s temple, with Christ as the head. (Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22)
 - c) The church is the New Covenant blessing to the world, pointing with Gospel hope towards the future consummation of all things.

Response

Advent trains us to sit in the beauty of and longing for “God with us.”

Sunday Text Questions

John 2:13-22

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) Which of the John texts is the most surprising to you, and why?

- 2) What does the role of faith play in understanding Jesus as the True Temple (hint: John 2:22)?

- 3) What does the work of Jesus in his life, ministry, and death teach us about the character of God?

- 4) How should the theological truth that God's dwelling place is now in us affect how we view our spiritual faith, our physical bodies, and our involvement in the world?

- 5) How can Advent, and its focus on the past and present "dwelling" of "God with us," help Christians annually to relearn to wait on God, to long for God, and even to experience God?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week's text: 1 Corinthians 3 (Mon); 1 Peter 2 (Tues); Hebrews 3:1-6 (Wed); Colossians 2:6-15 (Thurs); Revelation 21 (Fri).