



**LUKE**  
**2:10**

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

We are a Christ-centered circle of believers  
with an outward focus.

   **COMMUNITY** | Always invited

   **WORSHIP** | Always worshiping

   **MISSION** | Always sent

## QUESTIONS?

Find us on-line at [www.harvestdowntown.org](http://www.harvestdowntown.org)  
Email us at [thechurch@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:thechurch@harvestdowntown.org)

HarvestDowntown is associated with the Christian & Missionary Alliance.  
To find out more about the C&MA, go to [www.cmalliance.org](http://www.cmalliance.org)

Cover art by Nancy Anderson

Scripture reference on cover is from the New International  
Version. All other Scripture references are from the English  
Standard Version, unless noted otherwise.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff of HarvestDowntown .....	4
From the Lead Minister .....	5
Engage in the Incarnation Aaron Jalovec .....	6
Our Six Neighborhoods .....	7
Incarnation and the City Sam Friesema .....	8
HarvestMen .....	11
Compass Groups .....	12
The Vision of HarvestDowntown .....	14
The Christianity Fandom Benjamin Weilert .....	16
Advent and Waiting for God Amy Marshall .....	18
God With Us Cindy Meinert .....	20
Christmas Eve, 2017 Tim Meinert .....	22
I'm Not Going Anywhere Elijah Bachali .....	23
What's Up With Those Banners? .....	24
Family Connection .....	25
Upcoming Events .....	26
Opportunities to Serve .....	27

## THE STAFF OF HARVESTDOWNTOWN

Kurt Trempert: Lead Minister  
kurt@harvestdowntown.org  
Cell: 719.310.9098

Brandon DelGrosso: Associate Minister  
brandon@harvestdowntown.org  
Cell: 719.440.5336

Chris Clonts: Creative Worship Director  
chris@harvestdowntown.org  
Cell: 719.494.6794

David Wilson: Associate Minister  
david@harvestdowntown.org  
Cell: 719.238.6791

Ben McFarland: Assistant Minister for Youth  
ben@harvestdowntown.org  
Cell: 307.757.7515

Amy Marshall: Administrative Assistant  
thechurch@harvestdowntown.org  
Cell: 719.246.2746



### STAFF

Back, left to right: Amy Marshall, Kurt Trempert, Brandon DelGrosso, Chris Clonts

Front, left to right: Ben McFarland, David Wilson

### ELDERS

Bill Bayles  
Dusty Hill  
Gary Friesen  
Peter Marshall  
Rob Tumbelston

### DEACONS

Anthony Kieu  
Daniel O'Rear  
Jared Lujan  
Kerri Donaldson  
Leanne Schmidt  
Pat Altemose  
Richard Lujan

### GREENHOUSE RESIDENTS

Elijah Bachali  
Felipe Olavarría

## FROM THE LEAD MINISTER

Welcome!

Thanks for joining us at HarvestDowntown! Whether you are new to the church, or have been a part of the church for a long time, I want to invite you into our community known as HarvestDowntown. We are a Christ-centered community that wants to see our city and world transformed by the power of Christ working through His Church.

We believe that everyone is invited into the Community of Christ and into relationship with God through Jesus. We believe that humanity is always worshiping someone or something—it's just a question of what or whom. We also believe that the follower of Jesus is always sent into the world to live in such a manner that others will see their lives and glorify our Father in heaven.



We value our children and want to provide a safe environment for them to also grow in their faith and if you remain a stranger, it will make it hard on them! If you want to know more or you are just intrigued, please introduce yourself to us. We would love to get to know you and help you find the right church that will inspire you to be a participant in the Body of Christ—His Church.

Living the journey together,  
Kurt & Terasue  
719.310.9098  
kurt@harvestdowntown.org

# ENGAGE IN THE INCARNATION

Aaron Jalovec



Engaging in the incarnation places a calling upon us as followers of Jesus. It brings the reality of Jesus into our lives, but also the lives of those around us - our neighbors, our co-workers, our family and all those we engage with - all because we engage with the incarnation. Now, this is not just a lofty theological concept, but one that takes us as followers of Jesus into the world with the work and truth of Jesus to all those around us. It's not just a simple confession of faith we sign, but an outward profession to the world around us.

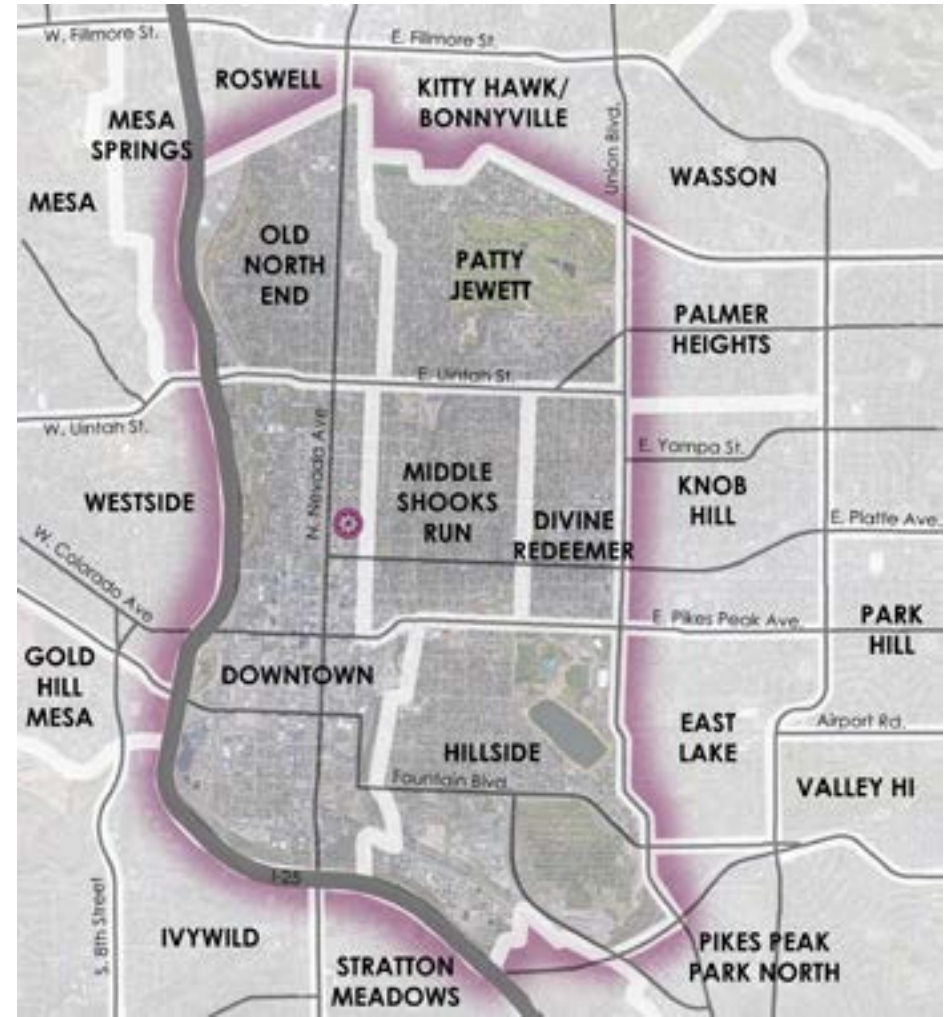
If we don't engage in the incarnation, then what are we here for? Why has the Lord not just taken us into His presence? We are to herald the good news, to incarnate Jesus to the world as we serve the least of these, to love the unloved, to serve the proud, to commit ourselves to the outcast. When we engage in the incarnation, we engage into the world around us. We follow the leading of the Holy Spirit into the places He calls us to go. This may not be so "fun" or "sexy," but it is our calling.

The world around us needs hope. The incarnation proclaims hope. As 1 Peter 3:15 says, "in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." This passage lays out a few things we must consider: 1) Always keep Jesus the Lord holy, 2) Know why and what you believe, and 3) Simply don't be mean to people when sharing the gospel. The gospel is offensive enough. We don't need to be.

If we engage in the incarnation to the world around us, then we engage Jesus into the world - and not some ideology or philosophy of a church, but Jesus Christ alone (see 1 Cor. 2:2). The incarnation is all about how "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). May we as the local body of believers here in Colorado Springs do the same within the 6 neighborhoods and beyond.

# OUR SIX NEIGHBORHOODS

God has placed us in proximity to these six neighborhoods in order to give every man, woman, and child in these neighborhoods opportunity, proximity, and access to the whole gospel of who Jesus is. Where has God placed you in proximity to others that you too can give opportunity, proximity, and access to the gospel of Jesus?



# INCARNATION AND THE CITY

Sam Friesema



*"Cities, quite literally, have more of the image of God per square inch than any other place on earth."<sup>1</sup>*

When I contemplate the incarnation, I am drawn to the fact that Christ came to us and engaged with His creation. It emphasizes that *this world matters*. This physical, tangible, material, messy world... matters.

The created world displays and speaks of God's character (Psalm 19). Humans, as situated beings, belong to a specific place and time and as Christ followers our efforts should speak of our Christ-like love for our fellow human beings. Tim Keller likens our Christian work to gardening, calling us to cultivate the world around us in an attempt to "help the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish."<sup>2</sup> Applying this mentality to our cities and neighborhoods should cause us to care deeply about how we shape the world around us.

Arguably, the most substantial collective human achievement is our cities. Our homes, neighborhoods, markets, churches, offices, streets, parks, schools, and more, make up our built environment. Normally thought of as mere background for life and culture, recent studies in cognitive neuroscience and cognitive neuropsychology suggest the built environment plays a much deeper role in forming our self identity.

Sarah Williams Goldhagen, in *Welcome to Your World: How the Built Environment Shapes Our Lives*, states that the "buildings, landscapes, and urban areas we inhabit are central to the construction of our autobiographical memories, and therefore to our sense of identity. Our very sense of *who* we are and have been is inextricable from our sense of *where* we have been and are."<sup>3</sup> What the constructed world communicates to us oftentimes tells us how we are valued or not valued in a community.

---

<sup>1</sup>Keller, Timothy. Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City. United States, Zondervan, 2012. p141

<sup>2</sup>Keller, Timothy. Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work. United States, Penguin Publishing Group, 2014. p47

<sup>3</sup>Goldhagen, Sarah Williams. Welcome to Your World: How the Built Environment Shapes Our Lives. United States, Harper, 2017. p.83-85

The city is a place of exchange, culture, business, life, recreation, and education and every citizen should have an equal right to full participation therein, but people always find ways to exclude. Take, for example, housing. Homes occupy a place of primacy in our lives because they meet a basic human need for shelter and are also usually the most expensive item we will ever purchase. Most of us take pride in our homes and likely find a part of our identity and financial security there as well. But until the late 1900s, the single-family home said something very different to minority groups who historically faced significant barriers to home ownership. Realtors, homeowner associations, lending and banking practices all told them that they were not welcome to participate in the full economy. Today, high-end neighborhoods exclude by setting large minimum house sizes, putting even the smallest allowable home above a \$1 million price tag, successfully keeping out all but the very wealthy. On the other end of the spectrum, we like to designate certain corners of the city for low income and subsidized housing. The built environment has always embodied the values of society, telling people of their value or lack thereof.

Cities today are less designed and more derived from consumer data analysis. As consumers, our purchases not only confirm the brands and products bought, but also unknowingly shape the built environment. Data mapping companies like Esri have categorized every neighborhood and even specific blocks to determine household demographics, incomes, and spending habits.<sup>4</sup> Corporations mine that geodemographic data to locate their stores or determine where to build new housing. Wealthy neighborhoods get the latest and greatest stores and poor neighborhoods get liquor stores, payday lenders, or nothing at all. The cycle persists.

*(continued on next page)*

---

<sup>4</sup><https://doc.arcgis.com/en/esri-demographics/data/tapestry-segmentation.htm>



Knowing how housing and business locations can influence people, Christians can better understand how to make missional housing and business decisions. Where the world focuses on compartmentalization, efficiency, and profit, a gospel-minded approach would suggest we make decisions to maximize diversity, relationship building, love and generosity, even if that means living or doing business in a “risky” neighborhood.



I am very encouraged about the potential for HarvestDowntown and our Creating Access campaign. Our physical presence downtown speaks. The design of our building speaks. The artful and welcoming quality of the proposed building speaks. The playful use of materials and thoughtful layout of gathering spaces will communicate to visitors that we care about them. Our little corner of the city will be a place that people remember. And if that memory of our building and the love of our people will also bring to mind Jesus Christ, then we have done our job well.

Come on over to 411 every Thursday to pray for our city and world. Prayer starts at 7am. Switchback coffee will be served. A link to join via Zoom is available in our Midweek Update email.

**PRAYER FOR OUR  
CITY & WORLD**  
THURSDAYS @ 7 AM

Imagine for a moment that you are Saul or David. It's annual performance review time. You are called into none other than God's "office" to receive your review. Let's look at the actual review document and see what becomes a part of your permanent record. Acts 13:22 says, "After removing Saul, He made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'" Saul is fired. David is installed as his successor, and God is careful to encourage David and tell him why he was chosen for this role.

It's very clear that God created us to be men after his own heart - in a relationship marked by humility, respect, trust, love, devotion, obedience, faith, reverence, and a willingness to repent when we sin in action and in thought. The leadership of Harvest has long desired to build a vibrant, encouraging, discipling men's ministry in Harvest. It's here, officially launched in August and led by a team of Felipe Olavarría, Chris Boos, Gary Stacy, and Rob Tumbelston. The first two meetings got right down to business. We developed a "purpose statement" that would keep us focused on the important, even critical, qualities of the men's ministry:

"Building an environment that causes authentic relationships by edifying one another and by serving others together."

We meet the first and third Saturdays each month, except on holidays. Our meetings are early (7:30 a.m.), short (90 minutes), biblically centered, and relationship affirming. Other service and fun events are coming in 2021. We have a Slack Channel (Harvest Men's Group) and we Zoom every meeting.

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

We love our men in Harvest. Join us if you can.

Felipe, Chris, Gary, Rob

## COMPASS GROUPS

We want to connect every person and family to a Compass Group. Compass Groups are small groups that journey through life together. They meet regularly to do life together, study the Word, and pray for and serve their neighbors. We have several located around the city to center you on True North. Contact the leader of the group for the location and more details.

If you are interested in starting up or hosting a HarvestDowntown Compass Group or if you have any general questions about our Compass Groups, please contact David Wilson at [david@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:david@harvestdowntown.org).

## INTERESTED IN LEADING OR HOSTING?

### DOWNTOWN

Leader: Mike Schmidt  
[michael@cloudfollow.us](mailto:michael@cloudfollow.us)  
1st & 3rd Thursdays: 6:30 p.m.

### OLD NORTH END

Leader: Terasue Trempert  
719.210.1566  
Wednesdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

### ROCKRIMMON

Leader: Rob Tumbelston  
719.231.6212  
Wednesdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

### JR & SR HIGH YOUTH

Leader: Ben McFarland  
307.757.7515  
Sundays: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

### LOWELL

Leaders: Friesen & DelGrosso  
[garyandlaurel@gmail.com](mailto:garyandlaurel@gmail.com)  
Thursdays: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### SOUTHEAST

Leader/Host: Marshall & Hill  
[peterfmarshall@icloud.com](mailto:peterfmarshall@icloud.com)  
Wednesdays: 6:15-8:00 p.m.

### OLD COLORADO CITY

Leader: Debbie Casey  
630.220.1489  
Mondays: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### LADIES' EVENING GROUP

Leader: Linda Bayles  
719.527.2660  
Tuesdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

### FOUNTAIN

Leader: Gary & Sarah Stacy  
719.228.6084  
Thursdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

Host/Leader: Bogdanoff & Bachali  
719.367.4538  
2nd & 4th Thursdays: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### MESA

Sundays: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### LADIES' DAYTIME GROUP

Tuesdays: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

### CENTRAL

Leaders: David & Juree Wilson  
[david@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:david@harvestdowntown.org)  
Rotating Thursdays:  
6:00-8:00 p.m.



## OUR VISION

- Connect families and individuals with a Compass Group
- Nurture a Lifestyle of Desperate Worship
- Cultivate Missional Living

To serve as a catalyst for spiritual change  
within our city

## OUR MISSION



# THE CHRISTIANITY FANDOM

Benjamin Weilert

*John 13:35*

Are you a “fan” of something? Perhaps you have a favorite football team. Maybe there’s a particular media franchise you enjoy. The collective term for people who enjoy these things is known as a “fandom.” Nerds are often ridiculed for obsessing over a particular book series or a television show, but the same can be said for those who scrutinize their chosen sporting team. How often have you run across these individuals who always seem to drive the conversation toward their favorite topic?

While it’s easy to criticize these people for their obsessions, I think we, as Christians, should take a hard look at the fandom of Christianity. Now that we’re entering the Advent season, Christians take this opportunity to celebrate the start of their “lore.” For those who aren’t a part of the Christianity Fandom, it can be difficult to engage with these individuals who are invested in the story of how God came down to Earth and became an incarnate being.



In the last year, I’ve become acutely aware of the Christianity Fandom. There are plenty of indicators that can equate it to anyone who follows the regular “fandom” tendencies that arise in entertainment. How different is someone who has a fish on their vehicle when compared with a bumper sticker that says, “My other car is a TARDIS?” There is a lot in common with someone who spends hours going to church every Sunday and someone who watches their favorite team for

hours on TV each week. Have you ever taken an online quiz to determine which spiritual gift you possess? Alternatively, how does this differ from the same quiz that lets you know which Hogwarts house you’d be sorted into? These are only a few examples without also mentioning all the jargon and canned phrases (or “Christianese”) most Christians turn to on a daily basis when talking about their beliefs.

The term “fandom” is usually associated with entertainment, but the concept applies to other lifestyle choices as well. For many people, Christianity is a lifestyle choice. Being a part of a fandom is a double-edged sword, though. I personally appreciate fandoms for connecting me with others who enjoy the same things I do. However, some people take these fandoms way too seriously—to the point of creating a toxic environment for everyone else.

Depending on how the fandom works, toxicity can either be reinforced by the echo-chamber of like-minded individuals or cause extremists in the group to grow louder and push people away—both inside and outside the fandom. Look no further than certain lifestyle fandoms like CrossFit, vegans, and the anti-vaccine movement to get a sense of how outsiders view these groups.

With all the ugliness of the pandemic and the presidential election season, I’ve seen many Christians start to display some toxic tendencies. I do have to wonder if their commitment to other fandoms is drowning out their involvement in the Christianity fandom. Still, when I see Christians posting memes with inspirational Scriptures and YouTube videos on how “all true Christians” should vote, I start to see the box that forms the echo chamber for this fandom. Sure, if your Christian friends already believe these things, memes and videos might encourage them during hard times—but they might also alienate those who aren’t “in the know” as part of the Christian fandom.

The next time you post something online, perhaps you should ask yourself, “Will this invite those outside the Church to engage it? Could this push people currently in the Church out of it?” I’ve already seen quite a few casualties of people leaving the Church due to the toxic fandom that has reared its head this last year. Some of them are friends who used to go to HarvestDowntown, who no longer feel welcome due to some of its members’ strong beliefs—be it of Christianity or some other fandom. This saddens me as I start to distance myself from the label of “Christian.” Just like I hide the fact that I enjoy particular shows or books because their fandoms are full of negative people, I find it difficult to bring up that I’m a Christian without having others identify me as one of those toxic individuals from the Church who hurt them in the past.

I do think there is hope in overcoming the toxic Christian fandom. It starts with people. There have been plenty of fandoms I have avoided for years, only to have a close friend introduce me and show me all the good aspects that drew them to the fandom in the first place. Instead of insisting that God hates sinners, perhaps the incarnations of Christ should realize that God *loved* sinners so much that He’d send His Son to Earth to be sacrificed. The Advent season is an excellent time for people to introduce their friends to the positive aspects of the Christian fandom. Invite a friend to the interactive nativity or to view the Perspectives on the Incarnation art show. Take them to a Christmas Eve service to see a fantastic cosplay by Pastor Kurt. But don’t leave it at that. Invite them to a meal afterward and talk about what they saw and thought. Engage with others this holiday season and show why you think Christianity is so great.

# ADVENT AND WAITING FOR GOD

Amy Marshall



"Christmas creep". That's the name for the profit-driven move to display Christmas merchandise in stores earlier and earlier. This year, I started seeing sparkly red and green garlands in September!

Our culture's approach to Christmas is marked not only by the worship of possessions and personal gain, but also by an aversion to waiting. In the land of McDonald's and microwaves, waiting is considered torture, and the

hallowed "pursuit of happiness" won't stand for it. If you want it, reach out and take it now!

Even in many churches, waiting is seen as unnecessary - or perhaps too uncomfortable or boring - and the whole concept of Advent gets replaced with what's essentially just an earlier Christmas season. And yet, it's evident in so many of our priorities and choices in life that today's Western Church desperately needs to engage a stronger theology of waiting.

Historically, Advent was a season of fasting similar to Lent. It was a time for the people of God to align their hearts with His as they anticipated the fulfillment of His promises, as in Israel's anticipation of the coming Messiah. The waiting, preparation, humility, and longing of Advent culminated in the feast of Christmas, far more joyous *because* of the waiting than it would have been without it. But our culture presses us to reverse the wisdom in this order. As one of my seminary professors likes to point out, instead of fasting and then feasting, we feast first and then fast. We gorge ourselves throughout an early and prolonged Christmas season, and then hit the diets when the new year arrives, in a binge-purge pattern.

A Christian theology of waiting stands in stark contrast to our cultural values of grasping and instant gratification. I've recently been struck by how often waiting comes up in Scripture. It's all over the place - a recurring theme throughout the Bible - from Genesis, where Eve and Adam did *not* wait on God, but went ahead and ate the fruit God had commanded them not to eat, to Revelation, where there are multiple encouragements to persevere and patiently endure, and where Jesus finishes His final statements to the Church by saying (for the third time), "I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). Waiting is an essential part of the Christian life. We wait for God.

The psalms often speak of waiting for the Lord. In Psalm 130:5 we pray, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope". The prophets also encourage us to wait on God as they speak of the hope of what is to come: "... the Lord of

hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food... He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces... It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; *we have waited for Him*, that *He* might save us. This is the Lord; *we have waited for Him*; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation'" (Isaiah 25:6-9, italics mine).

Hebrews is another book that has a lot to say about waiting and persevering in faith. I encourage you to nourish yourself with the book of Hebrews this Advent season! It gives us examples of people like Abraham, who trusted God to keep His promises. It reminds us of Moses, who "chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward" (Hebrews 11:25-26, NIV).

This year, some of my friends gave up waiting. Like me, they are not straight, and had been called to celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom. But in their eyes, the temporary fixes of intimacy in this world outweighed the promises of God for something better and everlasting in the world to come. So, they chose what their eyes could see now over the promise of God the Faithful One, like Esau trading his birthright for a bowl of stew to temporarily fill his hungry stomach. I understand the challenges of celibacy. I know it isn't easy - I live it every day! But I also see Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). I fix my eyes on Him who was resurrected and "exalted to the highest place", because He - God the Son - humbled Himself to become human, and was obedient all the way to His self-sacrificial death (Philippians 2:5-9).

A lot of times I am not good at waiting. I am weak. It turns out I can't manage the waiting on my own - and that's by design! I need God's help, and I need the Church, the Body of Christ. It's Her embodied, Holy Spirit-indwelt ministry of presence and the Word that helps sustain my body and soul, and encourages me to keep my eyes on Jesus as I run for the finish line.

In what areas of your life is God inviting you to wait on Him for something better than the temporary solutions of the world? Will you trust Him? Are you facing longing, loneliness, pain, insults, rejection? You are in the good company of Jesus Himself, who has walked that path ahead of you, and of the Spirit and the Church, who will walk it with you now. Precious family, this present life is short. Persevere with me for "an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17). God is faithful. Wait for Him.

*"Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:7-8*

# GOD WITH US

Cindy Meinert



God with us... Immanuel.

This to me is the most poignant phrase of the Advent season... that God came to walk among us, and He is still with us as the Holy Spirit.

*God with us.* What a nearly incomprehensible truth. *Incarnation.*

Merriam-Webster defines *incarnation* as "the embodiment of a deity or spirit in some earthly form" or "the act of giving bodily form to..." This leads me to think about ways we embody Christ and live out His mission here on earth... and that brings me to this story.

In late October of 2017, I experienced a loss that rocked me to my core and knocked me to my knees. Imagine a dark room, a rocking chair, just one candle burning for light. That's what my life felt like. Friends, music, sunlight - these things were all just flickers in my peripheral vision.

But God kept ahold of me. Wait... that's not an accurate statement. From the first moment of pain, God never let me fall out of His arms. He kept me safe and warm the whole time. Even when I felt my very bones giving way, I could feel Him gripping me. He dripped love, assurance, and Scripture into me like the drops that flow in an IV. He kept me alive.

And something else did, too: community. Already having deep relationships, having people who loved me and prayed for me kept me connected and kept me going. I felt the tendrils of love even when I couldn't open my door. It was and continues to be a critical part of my healing process.

I remember one particular evening during the Advent season of 2017. The glittering lights and holiday music were like nails in my mind, only serving to remind me of what I'd lost. I was struggling to find joy and peace, but was working to focus on Jesus, focus on Immanuel - God with us, and that was helping some.

Late one afternoon, I came out of a counseling appointment and as I drove home, God gave me an epiphany that suddenly provided some clarity and cleared some cobwebs out of my heart. I tried to put my thoughts into words,

but they just wouldn't coalesce. I knew I wouldn't be able to clearly express them, but I had to try to tell my best friend about this good thing God had done. When I called her to try to explain what had happened, because of our many years of friendship, because of the long road we've walked together, the pain and joy we've seen together, *she just understood...* and I had this thought:

*This is why we remain in community even when it feels too hard - so that when our lives fall apart, someone is there to understand and catch us when we fall.*

Friends, it was a beautiful moment. Oh, how amazing to feel that love, to feel the love of our good Father in the love of my friend. Isn't that the incarnation of Jesus being lived out right in our midst, "the act of giving bodily form to"? Isn't that what the community of Christ, what the Church is all about - living out the love of Jesus right here in the world, in the midst of sorrow, grief, joy, celebration?

So I challenge you to take a risk and dig in. Community and deep relationships matter. Are you pressing in or falling apart?

God is indeed with us... and we with one another... but if we don't live in true community, we won't know when one of us is brokenhearted, and we rob ourselves of the opportunity to bind one another's wounds and love one another well. Let's press in, and glorify the One who gave Himself up to love us so well.

*"The LORD God's Spirit is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for Zion's mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the LORD to glorify Himself."*

Isaiah 61:1-3

# CHRISTMAS EVE, 2017

Tim Meinert

*Written in a season of grief*

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."  
John 1:5*

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring except prob'ly that mouse.  
The stockings weren't hung, the chimney was bare,  
and, frankly, no one thought Saint Nick would be here.

The house felt quite cold as we came home that night  
No tree to sit under, no joy left in sight.  
My love in the kitchen and I on my chair -  
I pondered how I might bring joy to this air.

When all of a sudden, out of the night  
I remembered the reason we sing of great light.  
It was on this one night many seasons ago  
That in front of poor shepherds the angels did glow.

They came to the poor and the tired and cold,  
And sang of a gift that's far greater than gold.  
They told a wild tale of a boy born quite near  
Who was sent by the LORD to heal heartache and fear.

"Go to the manger!" the angels command,  
"And worship the King whose kingdom won't end.  
Go now and see all that God has done.  
Through a young, frightened girl he has sent you the Son.

She brought to you there in the dark and the cold  
The one who was promised through prophets of old.  
Glory to God!" sang the angels on high,  
"Emmanuel has come, your redemption is high!"

So come all this day, you who cry and who mourn  
And remember this night for the Savior is born.

# I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE

Elijah Bachali

*"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20*

As some of you may know, I started working with at-risk youth at the Dale House Project several months ago. The experience has been incredible. The current task I am learning how to do with greater skill is listening; these kids I work with every day often need a listening ear. They have interesting and painful stories ready to be processed. A common theme of these teenager's stories is that many people who should have been there for them left without explaining why. As one student shared, "everyone in my life has abandoned me."

The kids I am now investing in have often been taught that they aren't "good enough." They are trained to run away when things get tough. Those who should be caring for them leave, as if to say, "you are not worth staying for." These lies will take a long time to be defeated in these kids' lives.

It's brutal to listen to. But what does this have to do with the Incarnation? Jesus, in His ministry on earth, broke many of these same lies. God came to love, engage, and meet humanity in all its brokenness. He brought an unbelievable Kingdom of grace and power, and His followers couldn't believe their eyes. And then... He died. I wonder if the disciples felt abandoned in the midst of their confusion, locked up in the upper room dejected and hopeless.

This is where the story gets good! Jesus came back, resurrected to life, and restored a greater sense of hope and victory in His followers. And as we read in Matthew 28, He addressed the lie of being abandoned straight in the face: "Surely I am with you always."

Jesus isn't going anywhere. His defeat of death was final and, as we see in Revelation 19, He will return powerfully. The Lord isn't going anywhere and neither is His Church. We are Christ's ambassadors to a hurting and broken world, and working with Dale House kids reminds me daily how important it is to live into that identity.

Who do you need to love in such a way as to say, "I'm not going anywhere." Christ said it to us, His beloved. In a world as messy as ours, a few people in your life may need to hear those incredibly powerful words – "surely I am with you *always*!" Let's preach that message to all we come across this Advent season!







### **The banner depicting the Vine and the Branches**

takes its primary inspiration from John 15 where Jesus states, "I am the Vine and you are the branches." This famous passage of scripture addresses His responsibility, our responsibility, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the Father's role. Certainly one can tell the kind of tree by the fruit it produces, and our tendency is to try and produce the right kind of fruit in order to not be cut off. However, it is not our responsibility to bear fruit – it is our responsibility to remain connected to the Vine. The production of fruit is a promise to all who abide in Him and who welcome the pruning work of the Father.

The second inspiration for this banner is the stained glass of the large round windows. Note the continuous circle of the vine that symbolizes the abiding responsibility of the church. The stained glass also demonstrates our interconnectedness as branches. The red circle in the middle captures the Life-blood of the Church – the sacrifice of Jesus, the God-Man.



*WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT IS WITHIN YOU?*

### **The banner of the hand with the crossed fingers**

takes its inspiration from Colossians 1, Philippians 2, and the Gospels. The index finger represents the divinity of Christ while the middle finger represents His humanity. The two fingers are intertwined to demonstrate that He was one Person with two intertwined identities – the God-Man. The other description of this ancient symbol of Christ is that God's love and justice met in one event – the cross. The three other fingers are positioned to form one circle representing the three Persons of the Godhead in perfect unity for all eternity.

### **HarvestKids**

At Harvest, we are always worshiping, and on Sunday morning it's no different. At the 10:40 service, you are invited to bring infants and toddlers to the annex before the service. All children and workers are temperature checked and will receive a sticker. School-age children are invited to participate in singing and a special kids' discussion before heading back to the annex.

### **Kids @ 9**

At Harvest, we are always worshiping, and on Sunday morning it's no different. During the 9:00 service, all kids are welcome to join in worship with the whole church. We don't mind if they run around a bit and make some noise. If they are getting really loud (like crying) you can step out for a moment to calm them down. No need to feel bad about it. They're kids, and we love them!

### **Nursing Moms**

Sometimes moms like a private space to nurse with their little ones but don't want to miss the sermon. If that's you, there is a room in the balcony in the corner behind the sound tables. It's comfortable and private, and you can still hear what's being said. Feel welcome to make you and your baby comfortable in there.



## PERSPECTIVES ON THE INCARNATION

An art show centered around God the Son becoming human for us and for our salvation, and how as the Body of Christ we live and minister incarnationally in our own contexts. This show is organized according to themes of the Advent candles: Prophets/Hope, Bethlehem/Love, Shepherds/Joy, and Angels/Peace. The show will run in person and online from December 6 to January 6.

An intimate night of fellowship and food as we engage in the gospel message of Advent centered around the song "O Holy Night". November 29 through January 3, we'll gather each Sunday night from 5:30-7:15 to seek the face of God this Advent season. Bring a dish, dessert, and/or drinks to share (potluck style). Email Brandon at [brandon@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:brandon@harvestdowntown.org) with any questions.

## O HOLY NIGHTS

## INTERACTIVE NATIVITY

Step back in time and experience the wonder of the first Christmas with our Interactive Nativity! Chat with the shepherds, hold the baby, and pet the animals. December 21-23 from 5-7 p.m.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT HARVEST

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Production Services..... Jeremy Auyer..... [jwauyer@gmail.com](mailto:jwauyer@gmail.com)  
Music..... Chris Clonts..... [chris@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:chris@harvestdowntown.org)

### CITY OUTREACHES

Interactive Nativity..... Brandon DelGrosso.... [brandon@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:brandon@harvestdowntown.org)  
Perspectives Arts..... Meg Shaver..... [info@perspectivesarts.org](mailto:info@perspectivesarts.org)  
ServeSchools..... Brandon DelGrosso.... [brandon@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:brandon@harvestdowntown.org)  
MOPS..... Heather Kaczmariski.... [jnhkaczmariski@gmail.com](mailto:jnhkaczmariski@gmail.com)

### COMMUNITY CARE

Benevolence..... Felipe Olavarria..... [deacons@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:deacons@harvestdowntown.org)  
Compass Groups..... David Wilson..... [david@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:david@harvestdowntown.org)  
Mentorship Team..... Rob Tumbelston..... [rtumbels@gmail.com](mailto:rtumbels@gmail.com)  
Prayer Care..... Felipe Olavarria..... [felipeolaval@gmail.com](mailto:felipeolaval@gmail.com)  
HarvestMen..... Felipe Olavarria..... [felipeolaval@gmail.com](mailto:felipeolaval@gmail.com)  
HarvestWomen..... Amanda DeJesus..... [sacrificalserving@gmail.com](mailto:sacrificalserving@gmail.com)  
Cindy Meinert..... [indogirlco@yahoo.com](mailto:indogirlco@yahoo.com)  
HarvestKids..... Kurt Trempert..... [kurt@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:kurt@harvestdowntown.org)  
Terasue Trempert..... [tissueat@msn.com](mailto:tissueat@msn.com)  
HarvestYouth..... Ben McFarland..... [ben@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:ben@harvestdowntown.org)

### HOSPITALITY

Coffee..... Leanne Schmidt..... [leanne@cloudfollow.us](mailto:leanne@cloudfollow.us)  
Church Family Meals..... Bekka Simmering..... [bekka7@yahoo.com](mailto:bekka7@yahoo.com)

### MISCELLANEOUS

Branding & Culture..... Kurt Trempert..... [kurt@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:kurt@harvestdowntown.org)  
Facility Upkeep..... Bill Bayles..... [coloradobayles@gmail.com](mailto:coloradobayles@gmail.com)  
Global Impact Team..... Elijah Bachali..... [git@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:git@harvestdowntown.org)

## OTHER SPONSORED MINISTRIES

Envision..... [www.weareenvision.com](http://www.weareenvision.com)  
Camp Elim..... [www.campelim.com](http://www.campelim.com)  
Life Network..... [www.elifenetwork.com](http://www.elifenetwork.com)  
Springs Rescue Mission..... [www.springsrescuemission.org](http://www.springsrescuemission.org)  
Called to Serve..... [www.calledtoserve.org](http://www.calledtoserve.org)  
Lutheran Family Services..... [www.lfsco.org](http://www.lfsco.org)

THE CHURCH  
WITH THE  
PURPLE DOORS

HARVESTDOWNTOWN

411 North Weber Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

[www.harvestdowntown.org](http://www.harvestdowntown.org)



SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 a.m. and 10:40 a.m.

*At 411 N Weber and virtually  
through our website*

HARVESTKIDS

Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

*dismissed during service*

10:40 a.m.

CHILDCARE

Newborns through 3-year-olds

10:40 a.m.

JOIN US ON  
SUNDAY



GET  
CONNECTED

Want to keep current with the happenings of HarvestDowntown? A MyHarvest profile will give you weekly email announcements, bi-monthly classifieds, access to calendars and groups, and help you find ways to serve. To obtain a profile, go to [harvestdowntown.org](http://harvestdowntown.org).

Email: [thechurch@harvestdowntown.org](mailto:thechurch@harvestdowntown.org)

Phone: 719.520.0197

COMMUNITY | WORSHIP | MISSION