

God Pitching His Tent
John 1:14-18

 *Second Sunday of Advent*



★ We see that God has 'tented'/
dwelled with us in Jesus Christ

★ A God in solidarity with us in
Jesus

Logos (word)

★ Logos (word) was used in the
creation story of the universe

★ "Then God said, 'Let there be
light'" (Genesis 1:3)

Logos (word)

★ Logos used in the
personification of wisdom
(Proverbs 8:22-31)

★ Wisdom as the active agent in
the creation of the world

Logos (word)

★ Logos also used in Greek
philosophy of the First
century – referring to reason
which gives the world
meaning and order

The Prologue

John 1:1-18



The Word and God (v1-2)

- ★ The Word (Logos) as pre-existent – he existed before all else
- ★ The divine family before any of creation as we know it
- ★ Absolute unity and diversity in the divine family

In some mysterious way there is more to the total being of God than can be expressed in any single member of the Trinity

Kevin Quast

The Word and Creation (v3-5)

- ★ All came into being through the Word
- ★ The Word as the hand of God creating the world
- ★ The Word as sustainer and redeemer
- ★ Light and life continue to come through the Word

The Word and John (v7-8)

- ★ Referencing John the Baptist and his work of setting up the ministry of Jesus

The Word and the World (v9-12)

- ★ The true light shines in the world
- ★ Speaks of the world's resistance to the Word

The Word and the Community (v14-18)

- ★ Becomes the focus of our text – the Word dwelling with us

The Word Dwelling (Tenting) with us

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14



The Word became flesh (sarx)

- ★ John does not say 'a person' or 'a body'
- ★ He uses the word 'flesh' which speaks of human fragility and vulnerability, human weakness
- ★ Jesus is in complete solidarity with human weakness – this is incarnation in the fullest sense

He lived among us (v14)

- ★ Lived is the word 'dwelled'; he tented with us
- ★ A reference to the Exodus period when God tabernacles with the people – the tent of meeting

A Dwelling which revealed God's Glory

- ★ The Shekinah glory of God so much so that Moses could only see God's back (Exodus 33)
- ★ So God's glory is revealed in Jesus dwelling with us

Father and Son Image (v14b)

- ★ The image of Word (Logos) and God is replaced by Father and Son
- ★ Picked up in v18 – the Son is close to the Father's heart
- ★ The Son reveals in a full way the character and essence of God
- ★ The Son from the very side/bosom of God (v18)

Points of Contact From the Prologue



The Fullness of God's Love

- ✧ Jesus represents the fullness of God's love to us – 'grace' 4x
 - ♦ V14 – "full of grace and truth"
 - ♦ V16 – "from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace"
 - ♦ V17 – "grace and truth through Jesus"
- ✧ Jesus represents the face of divine love and compassion

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. And we have seen his glory, the glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love. And of his fullness we have all had a share – love in place of love.

Raymond Brown

God's Complete Solidarity

- ✧ God is traveling with us through Jesus
- ✧ Identifies with us in our flesh/weakness
- ✧ Not a long distance God
- ✧ Wanting close relationship with us
- ✧ Pitches his tent here and now

An Invitation to Accept

- ✧ To accept (not resist) the overtures of Jesus – described in the stories of John (like the woman at the well – John 4)
- ✧ To accept the love of the Triune God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – and relationships of each person in the Trinity