

## “Doing Advent in a Time of Transition and COVID-19”

with Bill Kemp

### I. Some resources:

Adam Hamilton “The Promise of Advent” <https://amplifymedia.com/the-promise-of-advent/#watch>

Bill Kemp “Church Transition Workbook” the appendix deals with worship during times of transition <https://notperfectyet.com/content/church-transition-work-book-getting-your-church-gear>

### II. Worship and Intentional Interim Ministry

If you began your appointment during the summer and your work feels at a midpoint, then you will be working on the history, context, and congregational identity components of your process. Emphasis: *God is in charge of history*.

If you have been in your appointment for a while and/or are nearing the end of the process, then Advent provides an opportunity to talk about what is to come. The Kingdom of God is hand and John the Baptist will soon be giving up his interim task. Emphasis is upon the **Future**.

Set the Advent/Christmas story within the **Hero’s Journey** (Joseph Campbell)

### III. Lectionary Themes:

- 1) November 28 – Luke’s Apocalypse – “The end times are near.” 2020 has shaken our faith in long-range planning. How do you defend against an invisible virus? There are no atheists in foxholes.
- 2) December 5 – The prophetic role of John the Baptist. “How do we treat those who prepare us for the future?”
- 3) December 12 – The preaching of John the Baptist. “Why are ethics and integrity important in these times?”

- 4) December 19 – The role of Mary. “Pregnancy is not something you win or lose, but a journey you take.”
- 5) Christmas Eve – Luke’s nativity. “Who is the non-anxious presence in your manger scene?” or “How does this story help us to be at peace?”

Bonus: The Sunday after Christmas gives us Simeon and Anna “How to exit gracefully.”

#### IV. COVID and staying safe during the holidays

Open discussion