

My wife and I grew up in West Central Minnesota. For the first forty-five years of my life, I lived in the Midwest, except for one year when I lived just north of Seattle for internship. In 2016, I accepted a call to a church in Western Washington, near Tacoma, where we lived for five years. And let me tell you, Western Washington is not Minnesota when it comes to climate. Our first winter there was eye opening for me. There was a particular day when they were forecasting an inch of snow the following day. A ho hum forecast for any Midwesterner, but not so much in Western Washington. That night, the school in town canceled classes for the next day. I was in disbelief. Then, there were a couple other instances that winter when snow was forecasted over the weekend and church members would ask me if we were going to cancel services. I said, *"You are asking the wrong guy."* And they understood what I meant. In all these cases, I was in disbelief over something that any Midwesterner would yawn at. As I was complaining one day, my wife put her hand on my shoulder and said, *"Just remember where you are from and where you live. They are not the same."* And she was right (don't tell her I said that). I grew up in one world and was now living in a different one, even though I will always be from Minnesota.

"Remember where you are from and where you live. They are not the same." That is what I say to you this day. You see, Sunday, November 20 was Christ the King Sunday. It is the final Sunday in the Church calendar and signals the beginning of Advent on November 27. Christ the King reminds me where I am from and where I belong - God's Kingdom - but I am still keenly aware of where I live - this world. The kingdom of the world is not the same as God's Kingdom. It is easy to get frustrated when we see the messed up political system yelling and screaming or when sinners act like, well, sinners. It gets depressing when we read about and see tragedies all around the world. And then there are wars, fighting, pandemics, back-biting, finger-pointing, division, walls, fractured families, and the list goes on. It is easy to get frustrated, depressed and fed up. But, "Remember where you are from and where you live. They are not the same."

Through faith in Jesus, our home is not this world, for God has overcome the world. Our home is yet to come and let me tell you, it is a perfect home. God's Kingdom and rule is perfect, holy, beautiful, without flaw, no death, no disease, no pain and no suffering. God's Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. So, through

Jesus, remember where you now live and where you are going. They are infinitely not the same. To God be all glory, through Jesus Christ, our victorious King, Amen.