

Due to inclement weather, there was not a church service on 12/14. Pastor Andy wrote the following letter in place of the sermon that was to be given:

For advent this year, we have been considering who we are "in Christ". The sermon for this past Sunday would have been from John 15 and that in Christ, we are fruitful. Unfortunately, as you know, we had to cancel the morning worship service due to inclement weather. Cancelling a worship service is not something we do lightly, the last time we had to do this was back in 2018. We will be continuing our sermon series as it was planned, so this coming Sunday will be "In Christ, We Are Ambassadors" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Since we are skipped last week's sermon, I figured I would share a few thoughts in this email.

First, a reminder of where what we have covered in this series:

- In Christ, we were raised – no longer dead in sin – raise in Christ. (Col. 3:1-4)
- In Christ, we were made new – the old has gone and the new person in Christ has come. (2 Cor. 5:17)
- In Christ, we are righteous – not only are we forgiven but we are made completely clean, holy, innocent, justified, and right with God – called saints by the Lord in Christ. (Phil. 3:9)
- In Christ, we are God's handiwork – his artistry, his craftsmanship. He is at work in us to fashion us more and more into the image of Christ. (Eph. 2:10)

In John 15, Jesus is speaking with his disciples on the night he was going to be betrayed, and he was preparing them for his departure. He challenges them to remain or abide in him, and that by trusting in him and remaining in him they will be fruitful. This is the same for us - we must abide in Christ, and as we walk with Christ, God will work in our lives to produce fruit. This fruit will be growth in our personal lives as we mature in Christ, and fruit in the lives of others as we live for Christ.

At BFC Conference in 2024 I preached a message from John 15:1-5. The message was preached to pastors and elders, but the principles in the basic application of the sermon would apply to all of us. Here is the link to this session of the 2024 BFC Conference if you wish to watch the sermon on John 15:1-5 and being fruitful in ministry.

[Click here for the link](#)