



THE CHURCH OF THE
ADVENT

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 6:2

Summary: The early Church was a place of profound reconciliation. For Paul, this ministry was powered by the Church's twin fear and love of Christ. Our fear of Christ is the knowledge that we will all one day be judged by Christ, the ultimate standard of good and evil who is above all earthly standards. Our love of Christ is, however, the affirmation that Christ is not only our judge but also our savior. Christ has sacrificed himself for us so that he could unite us to himself and make us right with God.

What does this mean for us today? First, it is important for us to remember that reconciliation begins with God – he has done everything necessary for to reconcile people to himself through Christ's sacrifice on the Cross if we come to him in faith. Second, we must recognize that those of us who have been reconciled to God are now God's ministers of reconciliation to the world. We are empowered by our fear and love of Christ to extend his reconciliation to all.

- Questions:**
1. Christ is our judge and the ultimate standard of right and wrong. In what ways is this good news, and in what ways does this cause us problems?
 2. Paul states that "the love of Christ controls us (v. 14)." What evidence does Paul provide for Christ's love, and how do these shape Paul's ministry?
 3. Think about the relationships in your life that are broken. What might it look like for the fear and love of Christ to reverberate throughout your life and into these broken relationships?
 4. What would it look like for our parish to be an agent of reconciliation in DC?

Prayer: Meditate on Christ as judge and savior. Pray that God would lead you to a deeper understanding of his reconciling work on the Cross, of our life as new creations, and of God's call for us to carry forward his reconciling work.

Do: Reflect on the challenging relationships among your family, friends, neighbors, and workplace. Lift these up to God in prayer and patiently discern how God is calling you to be an ambassador for Christ in these areas of your life.