

**Title: Word Made Flesh (Advent Sunday 1)**

**Text: John 1:1-18**

**Date: November 29, 2020**

**WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. This Advent season, we are remembering Jesus' first coming and longing for his soon return through the dimension of physical touch. As you think of the various stories in the Gospels, what episode do you recall where Jesus reached out and touched someone - whether for healing, affirmation, compassion, blessing or connection?
2. Are you familiar with the book authored by Gary Smalley entitled, "The Five Languages of Love"? He describes them as words of affirmation, giving gifts, spending time, offering acts of service, and sharing physical touch? Which is your most preferred expression? Where does physical touch rank among your love languages?
3. What does the act of touching convey or represent?

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Read through the prologue of the gospel of John (1:1-18) several times. What words or phrases catch your attention or stir your emotions? What are some of the comparisons and contrasts described here? Focus on verse 14. What comes to mind when you visualize the words, "flesh", "dwelling", "glory"? What realities might the apostle John be pointing toward?
2. Following up Warm-up Question #1, what Bible stories came to mind where touch is important? Who initiated the contact? What was its effect on what took place?
3. Pastor Melvin describes touch as part of God's style: "to get down and dirty and be with us in the midst of a storm that is driving us apart from one another." Does this reflect your perception of God? What do we gain from a God who chooses this kind of intimacy with us?

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. As we face more strict "Safer at Home" guidelines during this holiday season, how does the absence of human touch affect you? How might it be affecting different groups in our church family? What might be alternative ways to bring personal connections to those around you?
2. In this Advent, what are you longing for? How do you want God to come near to you? What kind of prayer can you carry with you each day that captures these desires?
3. As Jesus' physical body is no longer here, are there ways that we experience and take part in God's touch today? How might you share this with someone in need?