

# Feb 17 202\_CoffeetoGo\_Intro\_editedaudio

Tue, Feb 14, 2023 1:55PM • 13:34

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

jesus, liturgical calendar, lectionary, christian, scriptures, talk, calendar, explore, blake, karin, church, listeners, community, christ, journey, nice, holy, rhythm, podcast, advent

## SPEAKERS

Josh Mangelson, Blake Smith, Karin Peter

### **Josh Mangelson** 00:13

Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This podcast explores the unique spiritual and theological gifts Community of Christ offers for today's world.

### **Karin Peter** 00:30

Welcome to Project Zion Podcast to a new series that we're calling coffee to go on Karin Peter. And joining me today is Blake Smith. Hi, Blake.

00:41

Hi, Karen. How are you?

### **Karin Peter** 00:43

I'm pretty good. Now, I'm not sure if all of our listeners know, but Blake is a new host and editor and director here at Project Zion Podcast. And so I'm really excited that he and I are doing this new series together. Because he was actually one of my first interviews that I did when I first started on Project Zion Podcast. So if you want to find that you can go into Common Grounds: Pentecost, and you will find an early interview that lake and I did together. That was a lot of fun. So the reason we are sharing today is that we are starting with the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, and we're going to be posting short weekly podcast exploring the liturgical calendar, the lectionary, this whole Christian calendar cycle thing, by looking at where we are in the Jesus story, and what's going on. And hopefully figuring out something to talk about that helps us look at how it's relevant for today, I mean, sometimes I look at the lectionary scriptures and I go, Oh, dear! We'll come to some of those I'm sure. As we go through this, we're going to try to stay with the year A scriptures for the rest of this year. And then maybe when we hit Advent, we'll switch with the rest of the world into the year B scriptures. But for now, we'll stick to those. And we're going to see kind of what we can find in looking at the liturgical calendar and the lectionary in this way. And I know for me, I'm really interested in exploring a little bit more about Jesus than what I learned as a kid and maybe what you learned as a kid, like, like I learned about magic Jesus, that you could pray to Jesus and he would magically make all your dreams come true. So I think I was confusing Jesus with like Disney, but it's in there. And I also knew about nice Jesus, because I supposed to be like Jesus now supposed to be nice and be kind and be meek and all the things I'm really not naturally so it was really hard for me, but I learned about nice Jesus. And I think as I got

older, I developed this picture of what I can only call like, holier than thou Jesus, Jesus who never got upset, Jesus who was never snarky Jesus, who, who was so hope that the whole Jesus thing is unapproachable. So why Why even go there? It's like, sanctify Jesus over there glows in the dark, and you just can't be in the presence of Jesus because you're not working. So those that's how I understood Jesus. How did you understand Jesus when you were growing up?

**Blake Smith 03:17**

You know, some of those ways are exactly what I learned. One of the things that stuck out for me as I was thinking about this is Jesus, the white, blond haired, blue eyed, slim, always perfectly clean and groomed, never in the trenches kind of Jesus, you know, it's like, Wait a minute. That doesn't sound like the Jesus that some of the scriptures talk about. And it's, it's great being able to talk with you about this, because I'm often, when I'm going through the lectionary scripture or just preparing to preach, thinking, Okay, let's talk about what Jesus might really have been thinking. They might have written this, but what was Jesus really thinking? Nope. If he was fully human, then there had to be some moments, you know?

**Karin Peter 04:05**

Yeah, fully human, fully divine, we focus on the fully divine and we forget the fully human. All right, so we'll explore a little bit more about Jesus than maybe what we think we know about Jesus. I also, I think one of the other reasons we talked about doing this series is that there are a lot of people a lot of our listeners who are not totally thrilled with religion, or maybe just not totally thrilled with with the traditional church, but people are still interested in a spiritual connection with God, they still want to know if Jesus has value in their in their life and their faith journey. And I think, looking at the bigger picture of the scripture, and how we can kind of explore it through the liturgical calendar and the different seasons and holy days might be a nice framework for processing some of that journey. And, and might be an avenue that we can use to explore more about what's relevant to our current lives and circumstances. So what do you think about that?

**Blake Smith 05:13**

I think that's really important. Because as I talked with people, people who are on the fringes of the church, they might have grown up in the church, and they're just saying, you know, something is not connecting here, you know, the message that we preach is not always the message that we share in our lives. And, and also, you know, we talked about in the Community of Christ, about enduring principles and all of those things. And yet, people are watching, and especially those that I've worked on the outside of the church who maybe had been a part of the church, a church, any church a long time ago. And then, and then separated, because it's like this Jesus just doesn't make sense. It's what I'm hearing and what I'm seeing don't match. And if that's what Jesus is all about, I don't want to be any part of it.

**Karin Peter 06:01**

Oh, H word. The hypocrisy word. Yeah.

**Blake Smith 06:05**

Oh, yes. Yeah. And it's the prime message that gets out there about Christianity sometimes. I have to wonder, gosh, do I want to be connected with that as well? So to have the opportunity to look at where

really, are we with Jesus? And what does that mean? And how do I connect that? And how do I forgive myself or separate when I when I don't make it, when I don't get there? And what does Jesus think about that?

**Karin Peter 06:28**

Yeah, yeah, oh, this is gonna make for some interesting discussions. And keep them short. But I don't know, we'll see when we when we start that. So a lot of our listeners who listen to the common ground series know that I absolutely love the liturgical calendar. It's one of my favorite things about Christian community and Christian kind of life and practice. But it is inextricably linked intentionally to the lectionary, they are two pieces that that fit together to help us make sense of the Jesus story as we go through the year. And the first half of the calendar really is more about the seasons, and the Holy Days, is kind of like Halloween, through Valentine's Day, there's just like a next holiday coming really, really quick. And all these different seasons, and you see them because you go to the grocery store, and one minute it was Christmas. And the next thing you know, it's Valentine's Day in there. And the first half of the calendar is kind of like that has lots of good seasons and lots of good holy days to explore. But the second half of the calendar is more like that summer period, after after round, there's nothing for like a whole summer except maybe Fourth of July. And after about 40, that's not as exciting anymore. And so right. There isn't much going on until the advent or the pre pre Christmas season starts again. But what's happening there in the the scriptures of the lectionary is so important because that's our growing and exploring and really learning more about Jesus time. So the first half kind of tells the story of Jesus and the second half is the encaged with Jesus, and I love that rhythm of the calendar. And I love the fact that there are colors and smells and symbols and sounds that help us experience it. So what about you, what what has been your kind of the biggest impact that maybe the lectionary, or the liturgical calendar has made on your own discipleship?

**Blake Smith 08:34**

I think probably the largest impact it had, the word you used here just a minute ago, rhythm. I'm a, you know, a spiritual types, lingo. I'm a Kingdom Builder, I am, through and through 70, just get it done. Let's move on, let's not have a committee, let's not talk about it, or waste a lot of time talking about it. And let's just go. And so what the lectionary has given to me is this rhythm, and being in rhythm with my brothers and sisters across all types of, of traditions in the in the Christian in the larger Christian umbrella. But, and I didn't even realize that was an issue until, gosh, I was in my 20s or 30s. And because I grew up in a part of the church where we didn't talk a lot about religion with other people. I grew up in the South then and our church was taboo. And so in all of my friends, were Southern Baptist, and we didn't talk about those things. And so when I got into my 20s and 30s, and was mature enough to have conversations about that, and about about the scriptures are the Bible story and the gospel stories. I began to understand. I didn't I still wasn't really into the lectionary, but that growth period since then, of being in a rhythm with our brothers and sisters, and the larger Christian community is really helpful for me.

**Karin Peter 10:04**

Yeah, that that whole community blessing of community, not just within Community of Christ, but how we stand arm and arm with traditions across the Christian spectrum. So we're gonna try to offer little bits of things in these episodes. So we'll, we'll look at the lectionary scripture each week. And we'll try to give a little bit of information on what season or holy day we're talking about, as just so we kind of

understand where we are in the whole Christian calendar. And then also, we'll have some ideas for experiencing the story of Jesus, not just learning about the story of Jesus, but what are some things we can do during the week that help us really live into one of the messages or ideas or concepts that come out of the scripture? And then we also want to ask some questions that you can ask yourself for reflection, or maybe questions that you want to discuss with someone else. And we think that will give us an opportunity each week to kind of build as we go through the Christian calendar, and kind of see where these discussions take us. So anything you want to add to how these might look, as we go forward?

**Blake Smith 11:17**

I think the only thing that I would add, you know, we were very intentional about the name of the series Coffee to Go, because we do intend for it to be something that you can take with you and use. I don't know about anybody else. I don't know about you, Karin. I mean, often, when I think about the sermons that we hear the things that we hear in church, you know, it's just rarely do we take an opportunity to just say, Okay, let me sit with this. And let me let me figure out what does this mean in my life, not just not just as a Christian, but me individually and the environments that I'm in the people I'm engaging with? And what does this look like? And so I'm able to walk that honest journey with Jesus and say, Okay, well look like Jesus was just a, like you said earlier, just a nice guy. You know, he was on a journey with us and his disciples didn't get it. So I'm comforted knowing that in this podcast we're going to have, we're going to allow questions because I have got questions.

**Karin Peter 12:18**

You want me to listen to be really, really good going through I don't know if this was a good idea to put 270 in charge of doing this because we get a little wild as we go through. But, but we do look forward to listeners to you joining us each week, or maybe inviting someone else to join you too, and listening to coffee to go as we walk with Jesus through the liturgical year. I'm Karin Peter, here with my friend, Blake Smith. There we go.

**Blake Smith 12:49**

And I hope that you're excited and our listeners are as excited as I am, because this is going to be this is going to be fun.

**Karin Peter 12:55**

It will be fun, and we welcome all of you on the journey with us.

**Josh Mangelson 13:08**

Thanks for listening to Project Zion Podcast. Project Zion Podcast is a Ministry of Community of Christ. The views and opinions expressed in this episode are those speaking and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Community of Christ. The music has been graciously provided by Dave Heinze