

## Sermon Guide – Feb. 20, 2022

1 Corinthians 12:12-19

*<sup>12</sup> The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.*

*<sup>14</sup> Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

*<sup>18</sup> But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. <sup>19</sup> How strange a body would be if it had only one part!*

When we think "incarnation" we think about Jesus' incarnation as a child born to the world – Emmanuel – God with us. Incarnation comes from the word "carne," which means flesh. God became "flesh" in the person of Jesus and became part of our human world. In his humanity, Jesus lived in the first century, was a Palestinian Jew, spoke Aramaic and Greek, probably with a Galilean accent; his diet consisted of fish and grains, bread and wine; etc., etc.

We each have an incarnation, too. Your skin color, eye color, your language, your body size and shape, etc., etc. are the particulars of your incarnation. Describe the details of your incarnation:

The scripture above reminds us that we are different, but yet we are all parts of the same body. Think about your family, your group of friends – how are you different from each other, but yet complement each other?

How does the idea of every human being receiving the gifts of incarnation affect your appreciation of the differences you encounter at work, at school, in the grocery store, etc.?

The African word "ubuntu" means "I am because we are." Consider how you are shaped by the relationships you have.

