

Out of the Ordinary

[John 1:1-14](#)

Rev. Curtis Bablitz

December 25, 2024

Those were paintings by a Canadian artist named William Kurelek, and they depicted very ordinary scenes of Canadian winter. If you watched carefully, you saw people skiing, cars on the highway, fishermen bringing in their boats, cattle in a field, people gathered around a table at a soup kitchen, gas stations, children playing, all surrounded by snow and pine trees and all very typical Canadian things, very ordinary things. And somewhere in every image, there was a woman and a man and their baby. And these are ordinary things too –men and women and babies are about as ordinary as you can get – but these three are different. There is a light around them, a glory resting over them, in the midst of these ordinary scenes, there is something extraordinary about these three. And not everyone notices. Sometimes they are ignored, sometimes they wander by while the world rolls on around them, and other times they are welcomed, sought out, greeted with open arms. This is how it happens: The word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Jesus comes among his people in the ordinary, everyday moments of life, Jesus meets us where we are. If you watched carefully this year, you saw Jesus Christ here among us all year long. On Sunday mornings in worship and on Wednesday Bible studies, Jesus Christ was here in

this church. Every time the Youth group gathered to play games together and study God's word, Jesus Christ came and joined in. Every Monday, Jesus Christ came and shared a meal here in our hall. This is how it happens: The word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Jesus comes among his people in these ordinary, everyday moments throughout the life of this church, Jesus meets us where we are, here in our midst. And we don't always notice him. We don't always recognize him. But sometimes we do. Sometimes Christ is welcomed here with open arms, welcomed as our Saviour and Lord.

But Jesus Christ wasn't just here in this church this year. If you went out from these church doors, out into the ordinary, everyday world, and you watched carefully, you saw him there too. This year, Jesus walked the streets of Richmond and Vancouver. He stood with protesters in Seoul and huddled alone in the rubble in Gaza, and he suffered in Kharkiv and Donetsk, in a Christmas market in Magdeburg, in a high school in Wisconsin, in so many other forgotten corners of this planet, Jesus Christ suffered alongside his people. And all of these things, the bloodshed, the pain, the death, they are all so ordinary, so typical, such expected parts of life in so many places, and yet this is how it happens: The word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Jesus comes among his people in these ordinary, everyday moments of life, even in the darkest of ordinary things, even in the misery and anguish of our sin, Jesus meets us here as well, right where we are, wherever we are. And

we don't always notice him. We don't always recognize him. But sometimes we do.

And once we see Jesus Christ, once we recognize him here among us, then suddenly we realize that the things that we thought were ordinary, the everyday moments that we took for granted, the presence of Jesus Christ makes them so much more. When you know that Jesus Christ is with you in the midst of all the pain and anguish and danger of this world, when he is welcomed, sought out, greeted with open arms, then the ordinary becomes extraordinary, then the light of God, the glory of his presence, it rests on us, it fills his church, it pours out into the world around us and transforms us and everyone we meet through the hope and peace and joy and love of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. When you've recognized Jesus Christ here in the world, then you can never see the world the same way again, because it is filled with God's presence, it is filled with God's light. Our God is calling us out of the ordinary, out of this everyday, typical, broken rundown world, calling us to see his hands at work all around us, see his love moving in mighty ways among all his people, and once we've seen it, live like it's true, live like the extraordinary love of God is breaking in all around us, live like we've encountered Jesus Christ and we want the world to know that he is here, God with us. Today and everyday in the year ahead, go out from this place and keep your eyes open to recognize Jesus Christ in every person you meet, in every place you go, with every word you

speak, every act of love you share with another one of God's children. Go out from this place and celebrate the love of Jesus Christ, so that the world will know that this is how it happens: The word has become flesh and dwells here among us, and that means we can never again be ordinary, because God is with us. Amen.