



## THE BIG IDEA

Advent teaches us that God does things according to his plans, not our expectations.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Change is something that everyone experiences. How we allow God work in our lives through change helps us experience a full life.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Examine our expectations. Spend time looking at how God violates them, and look for ways that God is arriving through change in our lives.

## START HERE

We want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed any of the messages from Sunday, you can catch up [here](#).

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

This week's message was geared towards helping us think about change. Change is something we all experience, and often, it is unexpected. For many of us, this can cause a great deal of stress and anxiety, but what if the unexpected is actually how God works best in our lives?

### ISAIAH 9:6

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### Messy Messiah

This week, we looked at the expectations of the Jewish people. As they were being oppressed by the Romans, as well as their own religious systems, they looked to the promises from scripture that pointed to the arrival of a priestly king who would rescue them. Isaiah said this king will be wonderful, mighty, everlasting, and royal. Jesus, however, was a poor, peasant baby, parented by two un-wed

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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- Book- *Astonished* by Mike Erre-  
[BUY](#)
- More resources posted on the  
Forefront blog- [READ](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Now through December

- Christmas with the Kenmore.  
Find out more at  
[forefrontnyc.com/kenmore](http://forefrontnyc.com/kenmore)

### December 22nd

- Christmas Eve Service at  
Roulette in Brooklyn. 7pm

### December 27th

- NO SERVICES ON SUNDAY

teenagers. Do you think Jesus is the king they were expecting? In what ways do you think Jesus fell short of their expectations?

### When Change Arrives

Advent is all about expectations. We spend this season expecting for God to arrive in big ways in our lives. When we look at the story of Jesus arriving into the world, we see that God is not bound by our expectations. God transcends our expectations. Sometimes it seems that God is failing us, when in reality God is arriving exactly as planned. How have you experienced God arriving in unexpected ways in your own life?

## BENEDICTION

### Holy God of Love,

There is light in our lives because of  
the abundance of your steadfast love.

A love so vast, so deep, so real, that  
you became one of us. May we live  
within the power of this love. And may  
we share its light with a world where  
too many dwell in darkness.

Amen