



The season of Advent, the first season of the Christian year, has begun. And we begin, believe it or not, with the apocalypse. Apocalypse comes from the Greek word, and it means, simply the unveiling or the uncovering.

An apocalypse happens, usually violently, when people are forced to see, really see, things that had been covered up. Things that had been veiled. Things that were always there, but that we chose not to look at, not to acknowledge.

And 2021 has most certainly been an apocalyptic year here in British Columbia. First the fires and now the floods have uncovered, have laid bare, the truth of climate change, and we have been forced to see our own complicity in it—our own denial.

Theologians have always said that the primary sin is pride. And pride is really just overestimating our own human abilities. It's what we're all wrestling with right now as we look at the devastation brought by the floods, as we look at the Coquihalla Highway cracked in two.

We have overestimated our abilities and underestimated the mighty powers of Creation. The apocalypse though, is never the end of the story. It's just our opportunity to see, to really see, the world as it is. And it's an opportunity for us to recommit to living in a world of interconnectedness; a world where we look after our part of God's creation. Where we have no illusion that we can simply dominate and control it. And it's when we recommit to a world of love and justice incarnate.

And so, as we enter into the season of Advent, we are in apocalyptic times. But it is not the end of the world. It is just the unveiling of the world as it is and our opportunity to commit to the world as it should be. Amen.