

INI-SDG

In the Name of Jesus – To God Alone the Glory

12.13.2009 Advent 3 – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

Intro/Children's Sermon: None

Greeting: In Christ Jesus, who came to this world with a message that makes all the difference, if only it's heard/believed, fellow redeemed:

NKJ Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound,

2 to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,

3 to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Prayer: Lord, sanctify us by Your Truth, Your Word is Truth. Amen.

Intro: 12 days till Christmas: Why'd God send Jesus? Why'd He come?

-Buddhist/Hindu =makes no difference, Jesus plays no role in beliefs

-Muslim = Jesus was sent to be a major prophet of Allah, but certainly a much lesser prophet than Muhammad

-Church of Christ, Scientist = Jesus is not God's Son at all, but simply ended up a great teacher of morality, showing us how to live

Lot of confusion in world about Jesus – Isaiah informs us in our text...

THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

So the questions really before us this morning are:

-What is done with that message?

-How has Jesus' message transformed your life?

1. A Message of **FREEDOM**

Freedom? = Often taken for granted
= "Now free to move about the country"
= Laws in place to sustain our freedoms

-possessions

-property =Why are these laws necessary?

-person

(Matthew 15:7) = Condition of man's (my) heart **(John 8:34)**

(Romans 7:24) = Who will set me free? **V1-3** -Freedom Fighter

THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

2. A Message of **SALVATION**

How has Jesus' message transformed your life?

Service **focus:** = Repentance – Gospel reading **(Luke 3:8)**

= Righteousness – **(Matt 6:33)** His righteousness

= Rejoicing – **(Phil 4:4,6)** The Lord's at hand!

A message of deliverance!!! Jesus gives a life-transforming message!

V10 = What do we have to rejoice in?

Hymn 371 v1

THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

3. A Message of **GROWTH**

What is done with that message?

= Plantings out front of parsonage/fruit trees

V3b = Freedom has a purpose **(Eph 2:8-10)**

= God has planted faith in our hearts in order to grow!

Advent = His growth prepares us for His coming/continue in it **V11**

-God's Word/Work to prepare you – to prepare others!

-Opportunity for Word to transform others lives! **(Mat 5:16)**

Lot of confusion in world about Jesus...

=Whether Buddhists, Muslims, or Christians

THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

= Live Christ's message of Freedom: repentance/righteousness

= Rejoice always in yourself and to others of your salvation

= Advent: prayer for Lord to spring life/growth – while waiting

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your heart and mind in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Freedom? =
=
=

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(Matthew 15:7) = (John 8:34)

(Romans 7:24) =

THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

=Why are these laws necessary?

2. A Message of **SALVATION**

How has Jesus' message transformed your life?

Service **focus:** =

=

=

A message of deliverance!!!

V10 =

Hymn:

THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

3. A Message of **GROWTH**

What is done with that message?

=

V3b =

=

Advent =

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Lot of confusion in world about Jesus...

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THEME: JESUS CAME WITH A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD!

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