



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Advent: Waiting with Isaiah
Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

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.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

In this passage of scripture, Isaiah sees a future marked by hope and healing even though the people of God were rebellious. Isaiah lets them know that they will experience pain because of their rebellion but joy, salvation, and provision is coming. Isaiah announces this is coming through a child.

Advent reminds us to put our hope in the child that is to come – not in a political leader, the economy or a vaccine. Hope found in a child - God coming in the flesh.

Advent is a season of waiting and a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, our Lord. The season of Advent always begins in the darkness. We are reminded that darkness is a reality and we need God to break through the darkness with his light. Good news of Advent is that God works in the dark. Advent reminds us that the darker it gets the closer God's coming is.

God reveals himself over and over to many in the Bible, during dark times in their lives - Jonah, Jeremiah, and Elijah - just to name a few. Life is possible because God works in the dark. Christianity doesn't promise when you come to Christ that all your problems will go away or get easier, sometimes things gets darker for you.

Isaiah saw the people of God continue to repeat this cycle over and over again:

- steadfast refusal to listen to God
- even though they don't listen to God there is an unshakable commitment to religious devotion
- results in acts of injustice.

God warns: "Watch out, judgement is coming."

God pleads: "Turn to me."

God announces: "One day things will be made right."

Repeat.

Even though the people were rebellious, God sneaks in words of hope and healing in the midst of their darkness and sin.

The attributes that this child will be known by:

- Ability to carry the government on his shoulders.
- The Holy Spirit will give us wisdom and counsel.
- The might to uphold us.
- The tenderness of a father.
- The peace to quiet the chaos of our lives.

Only Christ can dispel the deepest, darkest places of your soul. Keep coming to Christ and allowing his light to dispel the darkness in your soul. The darkness, anxiety and uncertainty you have will not have the last word, because God works in the dark.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Lead Pastor Richard Villodas begins a new sermon series Advent: Waiting with Isaiah. Today Pastor Rich discusses a vision Isaiah saw of the coming Messiah, and the hope this vision brings to our lives.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did things mostly feel hopeless or hopeful? How did each generation work through their struggles?
3. What was or is a period of darkness in your life? How did you try and work out of it? Did you lean on God or try and fix things on your own? What can you take from this scripture to overcome feelings of hopelessness?
4. What comes into your mind when you think about God? How has that changed over the years?
5. Where in your life today do you need God's peace? What steps this week can you seek this week to receive His peace, His wisdom or His tender love?