

Pastor's Message
November 15, 2020

Hi Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Hope you are all doing well!!

Congregational meetings – There will a virtual (Zoom) congregational meeting on November 29th. At this meeting the 2021 budget will be presented, as well as a slate of nominees for GSELC Church Council members. The second annual congregational meeting will be help virtually after church on December 13th to approve the budget and elect members to the GSELC Church Council.

Food Pantry – The drive-by food pantry distribution will be on Nov 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 on our parking lot. If you are able to help out with Food Distribution, please let me know and I will pass that info onto Brenda. Please share this information with anyone that might be in need or food.

Communion Sundays in November: November 15 (3rd Sunday), November 22 (Christ the King) and November 29 (1st Sunday in Advent)

God's Peace!

Pastor Denise	Home Phone	610-750-6432
	Cell/Text Phone	610-858-8187

Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the 6th chapter of Isaiah beginning at the first verse.

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots^[a] on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean

lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

⁷ The seraph^[b] touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN

Let us Pray

King of heaven and earth,
As you cleansed Isaiah with a coal of fire to prepare him for proclaiming your word to the world, prepare us, so that we may know your bidding and carry out our callings with eagerness and urgency. Show the world greatness that cannot be contained any more than smoke or fire can be caught, in the name of the one who sacrificed everything to carry out your commands, Jesus Christ our sanctifier. Amen.

Prophets – in particular Old Testament Prophets.

Over a period of several hundred years, the Hebrew people gave birth to an extraordinary number of prophets. They were

men and women who were distinguished by their power and skill to present the reality of God.

God's beloved Israel had lost its way. They failed to see God at work in their everyday lives and they failed to live in relationship with God and with their neighbor as God had commanded them.

Even though God blessed and loved them, even though God had rescued their ancestors from the oppressors in Egypt and brought them to the promise land, even though God never abandoned them; they were not able to acknowledge God's presence and steadfastness. They were not able to be the blessing to all nations or even to

one another that God had created them to be.

The prophets were called by God to get the message out that God's people needed to repent and change their ways. The Israelites needed to focus their attention on God being at the center of their personal lives as well as their relationships with one another and with their neighbors.

These were the messages that the prophets were to proclaim which for the most part made them very unpopular. After all, who wanted to hear that God was displeased with them and the hardships they were experienced were as a result of their own turning away from God and embracing the ways of the world.

The prophets spoke the hard to hear truth that the people did not want to hear. The prophets were the ones who exposed the evil, the corruption, the

arrogance, the greediness, the disrespect and the self-centeredness that now permeated their daily lives, which was an insult to the God who had chosen them, freed them, and redeemed them.

And no one wanted to hear that their sinfulness was indeed the cause of their suffering and hardship, and it was up to them to repent and change their ways.

And this morning, we meet up with the prophet Isaiah who has heard from an angry and despondent God with regard to the behaviors and lifestyles that lured God's beloved children away from God.

As with many of the prophets, God spoke to Isaiah through visions. Visions are similar to dreams, but they often (though not always) occurred while one was awake. Some occurred in natural settings and others in supernatural settings.

In today's text, Isaiah goes into the most sacred place in the temple, where only priests were allowed to go. It was known as the Holy of Holies for is housed the ark, which was believed to be where God dwelled.

As Isaiah sat in the Holy of Holies, the carved creatures that decorated the ark came to life and Isaiah is now very aware that he is indeed standing in the very presence of God and God's heavenly council.

Isaiah saw the angels and heard them praise God as they said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
the whole earth is full of God's glory.”

After which Isaiah spoke of his unworthiness to be in the very presence of God:

“Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes

have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

In response to Isaiah's confession, the Seraphs retrieved a hot coal from the altar and flew toward Isaiah. The seraphs touched the hot coal to Isaiah's lips, and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin has been blotted out.”

Then Isaiah heard God ask of his heavenly council, who shall I send.

And with no hesitation, Isaiah said; here I am, send me!!

And God chose Isaiah to proclaim God's word to the people.

All of us are called into the service of accomplishing God's mission of restoring God's kingdom here on Earth. And centuries after the prophet

Isaiah proclaimed God's message of repentance and turning toward God-centered living. God sent to us his one and only Son to be the ultimate proclaimer of God's truth, and to once and for all cleanse us from our sinful selves. So that being blessed, forgiven and redeemed, we may indeed be free to be a blessing to others.

We may often wonder if we are worthy of the work that God has called us to do. And this text reminds us that it is God's actions that cleanse us, redeem us and prepare us for service in God's mission to restore the

kingdom of God here on Earth as it is in heaven.

And it is through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit dwelling within us that we will hear the voice of God calling us to do this kingdom work.

And like Isaiah, will we enthusiastically respond – Here I am Lord, I heard you calling, I will go as you lead me. Lord, Send ME!!!

AMEN

Blessing

May
God, our Guardian, protect you,
Christ, our Healer, restore you,
and the Holy Spirit, sustain you,
this day and forever more.

Amen