

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

O come Desire of nations bind
ALL PEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND

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. 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. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

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!"

Isaiah 6

At any moment you and I might find ourselves face to face with a famous person.

My dad told the story of waiting for an elevator in down town KC, I think the Muehlebach Hotel. Late 1950's. When the elevator door opened a few people including John F Kennedy walked off. This was before he was President, but a well-known figure.

I was in the same room with Bob Dole at KSU when I was a student there. It was a little news conference. Fairly small room. I was active in some campus leadership and the President of the University invited a few of us students to this event. I sat ten feet away from Dole. This was about 1976. He was in his prime, but I must say after the event he went around shaking hands and I experienced him as very much on auto pilot----going through the motions----which may be a professional hazard.

Oh well.

Then there are the planned encounters with famous people.

My Son in Law Jon has a sister in Denver. She posted on Facebook a few days ago that she had attended Michelle Obama's appearance there. She said that she had bought tickets three months ago and had been waiting excitedly for the day. Not exactly a face to face encounter but a brush with fame nevertheless.

I had a handful of planned encounters with Thomas Keating when I was on retreat at his monastery near Snowmass Colorado, and once over at the Sisters of Charity in Leavenworth where he was invited to give a talk.

These planned encounters take some intentionality right? You have to buy a ticket or travel to a certain place and be in the right place at the right time.

Did anyone get up to see the meteor shower this week? I did not remember to be in the right place at the right time...so I missed it. But it's possible to be in the right place at the right time to see the Space Station fly over----THAT's pretty cool!

"I've seen the King! The Lord of Hosts!" Isaiah says in Chapter 6 (below our text today)

Was Isaiah's encounter with God an "any given moment" type of circumstance or was he a person who, through fervent prayer and spiritual practice, put himself in the right place at the right time? Regardless, he had that encounter and it was profound and liberating and empowering. It was a saving thing. "God has become my Salvation" he tells us here in chapter 12. "I will trust and not be afraid."

Then there are those times when we say to someone-----I can't wait for you to meet my friend, you are going to love her and she is going to love you! Men might put it this way: I have a buddy I want you to meet. I think you guys would really hit it off!

This is where Isaiah is here in our lesson today----with a bit of a twist.

“I have seen the King! The Lord of Hosts! And he has become my Salvation!”

“And if it happened to me, because who am I? I was a man of unclean lips! If it happened to me it can happen to anybody!” but wait-----he sees that he can make an even more definitive claim. “If it happened to me, it WILL happen to you and everybody because there is nothing special about me but everything about the God I have experienced tells me that God intends for the whole world to know him intimately in God’s holiness and glory.”

“He has become my Salvation and guess what? With joy YOU will draw waters from the wells of salvation too, and on that day, when it comes, not if, but when, on that day YOU will give thanks to the Lord and.” here is what I am hearing in the text, “YOU will give yourself over to loving him with the love you have been given by him to love him.

You will “... call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.”

“Great in your midst is the Holy One” he says. “If you don’t know this now, you most certainly will.”

On a plaque at the front door of his house the Psychologist Carl Jung had these words inscribed: “Bidden or not bidden, God is Present.”

He is likely to show up, we remember Jesus saying, he is likely to show up when you least expect him.

Isaiah would agree. Mary would agree. Joseph would agree. Certain shepherds, and the Magi, would agree. And yes, that King named Herod would agree.

"FOR YOU I WAIT ALL DAY LONG...."

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 16, 2018 Third Sunday of Advent

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light
LIGHT HAS DAWNED UPON THEM, DWELLERS IN A LAND DARK AS DEATH

Lighting of the Candles

"The true light that shines on all people was coming in to the world" John 1: 9

In days to come, all the nations will come streaming to the mountain of the Lord's house

THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

And their spears into pruning knives

O PEOPLE COME, LET US WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

"Away in a Manger" NOCC Jubilation Ringers

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

132 When God is a Child vs 1, 2, 3

Sharing Christ's Peace

"Here Comes the Light" NOCC Choir

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence "Your face, my Beloved, do I seek; hide not your face from me" Psalm 27

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

We stumble in the darkness. Light of the world, illumine us

WE FORGET THAT WE ARE YOUR HOME. SPIRIT OF GOD, DWELL IN US

THE LESSON ISAIAH 12: 2-6

The Meditation "Have YOU Seen the King?" Rev. Rob Carr

We give You thanks, Blessed Lord of Hosts, with all our hearts.

Our gratitude knows no bounds! You are the Life of our life. When we call, You answer us and increase the strength of our souls. All the leaders of the earth shall one day praise You.

When Your Spirit awakens in every heart, they shall proclaim the new dawn of Light and Love, and great will be the radiance of Your Glory! Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

The Offering

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" NOCC Jubilation Ringers

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

134 Emmanuel Emmanuel 2X

Blessed is he

WHO WAS BORN AMONG US INCOGNITO
WHO WALKED THE WAY OF HEAVEN THROUGH THE STREETS OF THIS WORLD
Who told the deepest truths in ordinary language
WHO SHOWED ALL INCLUSIVE LOVE IN ITS UNCONDITIONAL GLORY

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

God beyond holiness, fill this bread and this cup with the fullness of Jesus
AS WE, WITH GRATEFUL HANDS, RECEIVE THROUGH FAITH, FOOD FOR OUR SOULS
Nourish us, through the mystery of your grace
UNTIL WE KNOW OURSELVES TO BE FLESH OF HIS FLESH, BONE OF HIS BONE

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation
Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option
Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

135 Blessed Be the God of Israel vs 1

Deep in our hearts

THE CREATOR'S GRACE, THE SAVIOR'S LOVE, THE SPIRIT'S POWER
THE THREE IN ONE, DEEP IN OUR HEARTS

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Monday 6PM Troop 90
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Saturday 10AM Cantata Final Rehearsal

UPCOMING

Next Sunday 1015AM
NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS: RHAPSODY IN BLUEGRASS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS ROGER AND LEO EILTS

Christmas Eve
Carols and Communion by Candlelight 7PM and 11PM
Bells and Choir

New Year's Eve
Worldwide Interfaith Peace Meditation
Rime Buddhist Center 6AM (Arrive by 530AM)

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry
of our friends at CHERITH BROOK.
Blankets Blankets Blankets! Tennis Shoes, Cold Meds, Band-aids, Bike Locks,
Gloves, Hats, Chapstick
Cherith Brook Local Honey for Sale! Contact Eric 816-241-8047