

Isaiah 50:4-11

December 21, 2008 – Children’s Christmas Service

Walk in the Light of Isaiah

In the name of Jesus, the Christ of Christmas, dear children of the heavenly Father:

Did you ever get to close to fire? One Christmas back home. I was waiting with my family for the pastor to start the service when one of the candles in the Advent wreath fell over. My brothers and sisters kept whispering, “Mark, it’s on fire!” I kept thinking, “Why are you telling me?” Finally I got up to see what I could do. Not the brightest candle in the labra, with my hand I swatted out the flame. It worked except for the burning plastic that stuck to my hand as I carried the wreath to the kitchen.

Church can be a dangerous place. It sure was for Jesus. Today we hear Jesus speaking through Isaiah as the pre-incarnate Christ of God. Isaiah wrote about 700 years before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. What God the Holy Spirit told Isaiah to write, the children will say today as we see *Christmas Through Isaiah’s Eyes*. But some of Isaiah’s sixty-six chapters tell the rest of the story like this one from Isaiah 50:4-11. It warns everyone about making their own fires to find their own way to heaven. There is only one Way through God’s Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the **Light of Isaiah**.

If I had known my hand would be burned on that plastic Advent wreath, I would have tried something else to put it out. But I’m still not sure what that would be. If everyone knew the church would catch fire, who would go? We would try to stop it from starting, prevent the catastrophe.

That’s what amazes me about *Christmas Through Isaiah’s Eyes*. God knew Jesus would be born in a lowly stable. God knew His mother and stepfather would have to flee to Egypt to keep King Herod from killing Jesus along with all the baby boys of Bethlehem. God knew He would grow up to be rejected by the church people, His own fellow Jews, the chosen people of God. And still, 700 years earlier Jesus is saying here through Isaiah that He will not try to run away or prevent His own suffering and death. The Baby Jesus was born to die. He would suffer willingly. Listen: ***“The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.”*** That’s what they did to Jesus on Good Friday when they crucified Him. But Jesus refused to hide because He was submitting to His heavenly Father’s will in order to save us from our sins.

That’s why I’m so glad Jesus came to be my Savior. My sins must be much worse than what they seem to me if it cost the suffering and death of God’s own Son to take them all away. And He must love you more than you can imagine if you’ve been stubbornly refusing to repent and turn back to God. Your Creator and Redeemer wants to sanctify you today through these children sharing *Christmas Through Isaiah’s Eyes*. As surely as Christ died for all, He died for you. Whether you believe it or not, the Bible says God has justified you. So believe it! God’s Holy Book clearly says, ***“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*** (Acts 4:12)

Jesus ***“rescues us from the coming wrath.”*** (1 Thessalonians 1:10) He has the ***“instructed tongue...that sustains [us when we are] weary.”*** Since Jesus died for all, you and I can ask, ***“Who then will bring charges against me?...Who is my accuser?...Who is he that will condemn me?”*** Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. ***Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.”*** In humble, childlike faith let us **Walk in the Light of Isaiah**.

*How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise:
Immanuel! (CWS 707) Amen.*