

## NORTH VALLEY LUTHERAN HOME CHURCH – NOVEMBER 21, 2021

### Josiah's Reform and Christ the King Sunday

Main Idea: Sometimes hope is all we have and all we need.

Humanity's search for meaning is universal. What is it all for? Is the suffering worth it? Does it matter? Israel was beaten down. She had been attacked, conquered, and exiled for so long, the people likely wondered if there would ever be a way back to happiness and normalcy.

God sent the prophet Isaiah to proclaim a word of hope to a weary people. The hope he proclaimed was that a savior in the line of David (a new king!) would one day come to deliver them. (By the time Jesus did arrive, they were once again conquered and oppressed by Rome.) This would be a king to restore peace, claim authority, and establish justice. It was a thread of hope in a society unraveled.

Hope is knowing that, yes, suffering can be worth it when there is a greater purpose, and when there is a possibility of relief. To have that kind of hope takes a tremendous amount of faith, and faith can be cultivated through spiritual practices and life experience. Hope and faith can be granted by a loving God whose word is more powerful than suffering.

**Leader:** The candle will now be lit to signify that the presence of Christ is in our midst. We begin our service in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

<b>Hymn: Rock of ages cleft for me</b> Let me hide myself in Thee Rock of ages, cleft for me Let me hide myself in Thee	Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed Oh, be of sin the double cure Cleanse me from its guilt and power
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**Prayer of the Day:** God of hope, You spoke a word of hope to Israel, refugees in search of a home. Renew in us your vision of your people restored. Amen.

### Scripture – Text: Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### Secondary Text: John 8:12

<sup>12</sup>Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**Questions for Discussion:** 1. When you're feeling sad or hopeless, what gives you hope? 2. How did you find that hope; what lead you to believe? 3. Have you walked in darkness; what does that look like? 4. Prediction of the child that would release them from all burden that would uphold peace with justice and righteousness; how are we responsible to carry out this justice? 5. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the light of the World?

**Hymn: This Little Light of Mine**

1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

**Prayers** (ask if there are any prayers that should be included)

For all those around the world who walk in darkness daily—for victims of war, violence, abuse and abduction, displaced refugees, the unjustly imprisoned, and all who are tempted to despair, we pray, O Lord. Find a way to reach them with the light of hope, in whatever way, through whatever means possible, and use us as ambassadors for equality, freedom, and justice. Zealous God hear our prayer...as we remember the pray you taught us

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

**Offering** – Collect now and drop off at church, or mail, or bring to the next Sunday worship service at North Valley.

**Benediction** - “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.” Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)

**Closing Hymn – Blessed Assurance**

<p>Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine Heir of salvation, purchase of God Born of His spirit, washed in His blood</p>	<p>Perfect submission, all is at rest I in my Savior, am happy and blessed Watching and waiting, looking above Filled with His goodness, lost in His love, oh oh</p>
<p>C: This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long,</p>	<p>C: This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long,</p>

**Dismissal – Leader:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God!**