Pastor Kris Beckert Illuminate

December 2, 2018 Isaiah 7; 9:2; 53

**Illuminating Advent:**

* Advent means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The Advent wreath symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* With each candle, you get more and more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a symbol of Jesus

John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5****The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.***

**The Light of Christ is Illuminating**

**I. The Light of Christ illuminates\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Isaiah 7:10-13 *Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” 12But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” 13Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?*

* Book of Isaiah takes place--
* Ahaz--

**II. The Light of Christ illuminates\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Isaiah 7:14-16 *“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. 15He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.”*

* V. 14 “behold” – *hinneh* – *idou* –
* Immanuel--

Isaiah 9:2 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

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| *“Hoping does not mean doing nothing… It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying. And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what He said He will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it His way and in His time.”*  *–Eugene Peterson* |

**III. The Light of Christ illuminates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12 *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all…. 10Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

* God’s ways –
* God’s timing (*kairos*) –

**Big Idea:**

**Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!**

1. What are some things that are threatening to darken this Advent season for you?
2. What has Christ illuminated that you don’t want to see?
3. What hope are you currently waiting for God to fulfill?
4. How can you begin to trust in God’s ways and timing?
5. What is one thing you can do this week to remind yourself that Jesus is the life and light that overcomes darkness?
6. This Christmas, what does God want you to see differently?