

December 13th Bulletin

Prelude

Announcements (will be on Facebook Live screen)

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle

Call to Worship:

Pastor: I waited patiently for the Lord;

People: He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Pastor: He put a new song in my mouth,

People: A song of praise to our God.

Opening Hymn #150 *“What Child Is This?”*

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

Special Music: *“Mary, Did You Know?”* Holly Liming

Children’s Sermon Becky Gillaugh

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3 OT page 691

Sermon: Oaks of Righteousness

Time of Prayer (*Note: For now, we will not be asking for spoken joys and concerns. Please text them, send them by Facebook messenger, or leave them on the pulpit.*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn #147 *“Away in a Manger”*

Offering Reminder (*online giving is available at www.cedarvilleunited.org*)

Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Notes:

INTRODUCTION

- Last Week: ask for the ancient paths
- Books I recommend:
 1. *With the Word* by Warren Wiersbe
 2. *How To Read the Bible Book By Book* by Gordon Fee/Douglas Stuart
- This is an apocalyptic passage.
- Today I want to focus in on what it means to be oaks of righteousness: How do we continue to nourish ourselves over and against everything that is happening?

BACKGROUND OF PASSAGE

- In the first verse, the entire Trinity is mentioned—the Spirit, the Lord, and the Messiah. The “me” refers to Jesus.
- Mission outlined: preach the good news, heal people, free the captives, proclaim both favor and vengeance, and to comfort
- All oaks trees begin as acorns

DIVINE MENTOR

- He continues... *what is true for Sequoias is also true for you and me. We have delicate root systems—more fragile than we would ever imagine—and unless we find a way to protect and nourish those roots, we too will fall.*
- *It may be in one great physical, emotional, or moral collapse, or it may be little by little gradually...killing the essence of who we are and who we would like to become.*

FOR US TODAY

- How do we nourish ourselves?
- What is our “foot traffic?”
- How do we remain oaks of righteousness even when we are weary – when we feel like we can be whipped around in the wind?

Opening Hymn #150 *“What Child Is This?”*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
hast, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Closing Hymn #147 *“Away in a Manger!”*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.