

***New Covenant Presbyterian Church - PCA***

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November 30, 2014

Prelude

Greetings and Announcements Mr. Robert Smith

Choral Introit

The Call to Worship Isaiah 40:3

\*Hymn No. 1 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

\*Invocation

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

OT Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:1-14 Mr. Robert Smith

Sermon Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

***TWO MEN AND A MIRROR***

*Ahaz – Surrounded by apparent defeat*

The Anthem

\*Doxology

(children dismissed to Children's Church)

Morning Prayer

NT Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Mr. Robert Smith

Sermon Continued

*Joseph – Surrounded by apparent unrighteousness*

\*Hymn 125 *Joy to the World*

Offering of Thanks and Praise Mr. Robert Smith

Offertory

Sermon Concluded

*A Mirror – Remember our reflection today is distorted.*

Musical Response

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction No. 134 *Emmanuel*

\*Postlude

***TWO MEN AND A MIRROR***

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22,

- I. Ahaz – Surrounded by apparent defeat. (Isaiah 7)
  - A. Isaiah was sent:
    1. Be careful
    2. Keep Calm
    3. Do not be Afraid
    4. Don't loose heart.
  - B. The Prophecy: Immanuel "God is with you"
- II. Joseph – Surrounded by apparent unrighteousness. (Matthew 1:18-25)
  - A. An angel was sent:
    1. Do not be afraid
    2. Take Mary - Don't be afraid to obey. (Mary's child is of the Holy Spirit.)
    3. Name the child Jesus (The Lord Saves) - Don't be afraid to acknowledge God's authority.
  - B. The Prophecy fulfilled: Immanuel "God is with you"
- III. A Mirror: Remember, our reflection today is distorted.
  - A. When defeat looks sure ... remember "God is with you."
    1. Carefully consider so that you can become aware of what is truly happening.
    2. Do not allow your emotions to be hijacked
    3. Do not let fear keep you from what God is calling you to do.
    4. Persevere with a growing confidence.
  - B. When unrighteousness looks abundant ... remember "God is with you."
    1. Do not be fearful of the truth.
    2. God works through the obedience of our commitments.
    3. Ultimately, God is our authority.

Prelude  
Greetings and Announcements Mr. Robert Smith  
Choral Introit  
The Call to Worship Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

\*Hymn No. 1 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy ways;  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, bloss'ning meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother—All who live in love are Thine:  
Teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
Father-love is reigning o'er us; brother-love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

\*Invocation

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

OT Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:1-14 Mr. Robert Smith

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah,

King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

<sup>2</sup> Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. <sup>4</sup> Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. <sup>5</sup> Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, <sup>6</sup> "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." <sup>7</sup> Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“ ‘It will not take place,  
it will not happen,  
<sup>8</sup> for the head of Aram is Damascus,  
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.  
Within sixty-five years  
Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.  
<sup>9</sup> The head of Ephraim is Samaria,  
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son.  
If you do not stand firm in your faith,  
you will not stand at all.' ”

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Sermon

Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

***TWO MEN AND A MIRROR***  
*Ahaz – Surrounded by apparent defeat*

The Anthem

\*Doxology

(children dismissed to Children's Church)

Morning Prayer

NT Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Mr. Robert Smith

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon Continued

*Joseph – Surrounded by apparent unrighteousness*

\*Hymn 125

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing.  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns. Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy – Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found – Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Offering of Thanks and Praise

Mr. Robert Smith

Offertory

Sermon Concluded

*A Mirror – Remember our reflection today is distorted.*

Musical Response

Or

\*Hymn No. 124 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us: Let us find our rest in Thee;  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction No. 134     *Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

\*Postlude