

In Those Days
Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 1, 2024

INVOCATION: Merciful Lord, we are thankful for this time together and this season of anticipation. As our ancestors looked forward to your birth, we look forward to your return in glory. Help us to prepare our hearts and minds today to welcome you. Amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: Theme "Hope." Reading Psalm 25:1-10

HYMN # 76 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
HYMN # 77 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

OFFERTORY HYMN # 85 The First Nowell

SERMON FOCUS: I must put my hope in God's promise.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will see reason for hope despite what is going on in the world.

BACKGROUND: Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah from 626 to 586 B. C., leading right up to the Babylonian captivity.

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

INTRODUCTION: Has anyone paid attention to what is going on in the world today? It looks really bad.

- The war between Russia and Ukraine has gone on for a couple of years. Russia is now threatening nuclear weapons against those who help Ukraine.
- North Korea has provided troops to help Russia in this war.
- Russia and China are increasingly conducting joint military operations.
- The war between Israel and Hamas has gone on for over a year, with both sides accusing the other of violating cease-fire agreements.
- The cost of living is extremely high, and our incoming president is poised to start a trade war.
- We are seeing an increased number of severe storms, wildfires, and other weather phenomena.
- We have a societal lack of human compassion and dignity.
- We have violence in our streets and in our schools.
- Those who proclaim the truth of God's word are increasingly ridiculed, silenced, or de-platformed. Particularly if you speak against anything in the LGBTQ agenda.
- The world has gotten to be a place of constant worry, anxiety, and stress. People really need some hope and it is hard to find.

MESSAGE:

1. THE WORLD HAS BEEN BAD BEFORE
 - a. Jeremiah preached for forty years to God's chosen people and watched them continue to dive further into sin.
 - b. Jeremiah was called a liar by false prophets who didn't like his message.
 - c. Jeremiah was jailed for his preaching.
 - d. Jeremiah had a front row seat to the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon.
 - e. Yet, despite all this, he still had reason for hope and it is the same reason for hope that we have today.

2. GOD'S PROMISES ARE STILL TRUE
 - a. The days are still coming when God will fulfill His promise completely.
 - b. He has already sent the Righteous Branch of David. As in the days of Jeremiah, God's people rejected Jesus during his lifetime.
 - c. Christ has come, which we celebrate at Christmas. And He saved us.
 - d. We have not seen a complete fulfillment of the promise however.

- i. Judas is not saved yet.
 - ii. Jerusalem does not dwell securely yet.
 - iii. People still live in denial of the Messiah, but He came to fulfill the promise.
- e. We can also trust the rest of God's promise because Christ is coming back.

3. CHRIST IS COMING BACK

- a. It seemed like all hope was lost when Jerusalem was destroyed. Yet, this all fit within God's plan.
- b. It may seem like all hope is lost now, but it is not.
- c. Christ's return is guaranteed, when all evil will be conquered.

4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).

- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
- b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
- c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

FOUR QUESTIONS:

- 1. What do you hear God saying to you?
- 2. What keeps you from doing that?
- 3. If you were to do that, what might be a good first step?
- 4. Who are you going to tell?

INVITATION HYMN # 275 | Surrender All