

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020

From the prophet Isaiah, Jesus pulled the words he would speak to those gathered in the synagogue at Nazareth as he began his ministry, saying, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come..." (Isaiah 61:1-2a).

Howard Thurman, 20th century theologian, writes:

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins;
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart."

After reading from the scroll of Isaiah, Jesus "rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them, 'The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!'" (Luke 4:20-21).

Prayer: Lord, fill us full of these words, and strengthen us for the work of Christmas! May it not be confined to a day or a season, but may it transform us, that we may transform the world in your vision. Amen.

On behalf of the session and staff of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church, Merry Christmas, beloved children of God, and peace be with you!