



**Behold My Servant – Advent Through Isaiah’s Songs**  
**Wk. 1 Hope for Tomorrow**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/30/2025**

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**Theme** – *“The Servant Who Brings Justice and Light.”*

**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**Isaiah 42:1-9 ESV**

**The LORD’s Chosen Servant**

**42** Behold my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

**2** He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,

or make it heard in the street;

**3** a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

**4** He will not grow faint or be discouraged

till he has established justice in the earth;

and the coastlands wait for his law.

**5** Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

**6** “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;

I will give you as a covenant for the people,

a light for the nations,

**7** to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

**8** I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to carved idols.

**9** Behold, the former things have come to pass,

and new things I now declare;

before they spring forth

I tell you of them.”



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**Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”**  
**People – “Thanks be to God.”**

**Pray**

**Illustration**

Well, what tells you every year that Christmas is almost upon us again?

Maybe for some of you, it is the traditions of Thanksgiving, where you may have been brought up like I was and that means, Watching the Macy’s Day Parade and catching Santa at the end, or the pulling out of the Christmas Ornaments AFTER Thursday, and even perhaps boldly going shopping on Black Friday for the best deals. Who can forget all the commercials already with all the Christmas movies you have come to hate, *I mean love*, through the years.

It may be the recognition of holiday decorations, as they slowly creep in around the places you frequent. Like at the grocery store where you see the Halloween candy is slowly pushed up to make room for the Christmas Candy. Or when you stop by your favorite watering hole/coffee stop and notice the windows have that fake snow on them and they are already offering the holiday drink specials (btw if you want to make me happy buy me an eggnog latte ☺). Or like me you are always surprised to find the downtown decorations hanging on the poles as soon as they clean up the Halloween candy off the streets.

There is though one universal sign that Christmas is unescapable and quickly approaching. You turn your radio on this morning and what did you hear? That’s right, Christmas music! From now until New Years it will seem like it’s the only thing you will hear as well, and it doesn’t matter what station you listen to every genre of music will have some type of Holiday message tied to it. I just want to say you’re welcome from my generation that gave you the Christmas hits such as Wham’s [“Last Christmas”](#), Billy Squier’s [“Christmas is the Time to Say I Love you”](#), and who can forget, [“Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer”](#).



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Music is such a great indicator, because music ascribes to it memory, of times past. For all of us, there are songs that we sing at Christmas time right now because they remind us of our childhood. If you are like me, you grew up with **‘Claymation’** so you love to sing *Rudolph the Red nose Reindeer* or the *Heatmizer* song. I also like to sing, just like a lot of you, those traditional Christmas hymns. For me it was because my mother was a classically trained singer so I would always hear her sing those beautiful songs in church and in the home. This time of year, Christmas songs though do have a way to remind us of hard years, of Christmas pasts that we wish we could forget. That’s ok, mixed with the tears of unfulfilled dreams and lives is the anticipation of something better still to come. Christmas for a Christian, God’s people, is not meant to erase the past, but the past is used to sweeten the anticipation of what is to come.

That’s why at this time every year, it is a good reminder to reflect on what we have already received and to look forward to the one day when our Faith will be replaced by sight!

### **Introduction**

Dark years for God’s people are not a new thing btw. In the centuries before the first Advent God’s people were decimated, spiritually by their own profane practices, and physically by the work of conquering kings. It was during this time of turmoil, war, and upheaval that God provided a man that would give us songs. These songs though were not built in a past but in a future that God will make all things right. These same songs still sing to us, for they have not all the way come true yet. We still cling to them because the main character has shown up already, but He has not finished yet all the work that is to be done to bring in the glorious end.

The Song writer’s name is Isaiah, he’s a prophet, a traveling preacher. Isaiah lived during the 8th and 7th centuries BCE in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, with his prophetic ministry spanning from approximately 740 to 686 BCE. His life and work occurred during the reigns of several Judean kings, including Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He watched as Assyria conquered his cousins to the North in the Kingdom of Israel, and as they did, he began to



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speak into the lives of his own people knowing they were on the same trajectory.

He knew the end was coming, he was privy to the political news in the courts for he was of the royal family and knew of the superpower rising in Babylon (In Isaiah 44 it was predicted to be Cyrus). So, he prepared the people, by reminding them God DOES save sinners, but this Salvation though will come from without, in the form of a servant, a servant totally devoted to God. To show them this in the middle of his most famous passages on the suffering servant, who if you have not guessed it yet, **is about Jesus**, he records four songs. Songs that were meant to point towards a future, songs that were built on the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of God. Songs that would NOT be built on memories of things lost, but would use the memories of a dark past, to sweeten life as they pointed to a glorious future for God’s people.

We are going to take those same songs of Isaiah, look at them, and open their meanings on this **best of servants**. For we too as God’s people have had some dark days. We too have been living under the reign of Christ, but we too have still seen a lot of heartache. We too live in a country that will not learn from its’ past, that is trying very hard to run from conviction of sin. Even as our neighbors in the east are suffering and losing to an invasion, once again from the same area of Babylon.

I don’t know about you, but I need to be reminded again, of a hope not built in man, but built on the strength of God and what He can provide. I need to be reminded that God sent a servant, a Son, into the world not to condemn the world but to SAVE SINNERS! I need to be reminded that life is hard but that His first coming points to His Last Advent where He will make all things right. I need to have my Christmas connected to the Hope of Christ, how about you?

Today let’s look at 5 different facts that this song teaches us about this Servant that was foretold in Isaiah, who came to us 2,000 years ago in the first Advent, and of whom we wait to return to put death under His feet. We will look at how God wishes to **present His servant**, which tells you how we should take Him. Next, we will witness the **servant’s manner**, that which draws us to Him, how He treats us. Then we will see the **servant’s certainty**,



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which shows you why He can be depended on. Followed by the **servant’s commissioning** that which He is doing right now, how do we see Him at work in our world today. Then lastly, the **servant’s glory** looking forward to seeing the day when all future promises will come to fruition.

All this which builds on the Advent theme of HOPE, this first Sunday of Advent. That’s my prayer for all of us that we will put our Hope again in the servant that will establish Justice for His people.

**MP:**

**This Servant of God is able to hold your hope.**

**1. The Servant Presented.**

<sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

This servant is not like any other servant that God has used before. He is unlike Moses, who could not withstand the full weight of God’s Glory, but this servant can. This Servant has the Spirit upon Him, unlike the High priests of old, He does not have to offer any sacrifices for His own sin in order to be in God’s presence. This servant, unlike King David, will not fail to reign in the nations, this servant will bring forth subjection of all people. This is the CHOSEN of God, and what is He chosen to do? To bring forth Justice to the Nations! Not just the Jews but to the Gentiles as well.

This Servant presented, is unlike the best men in scripture, therefore family, how do you handle His name in your home? Do you revere Him, do you fear Him, do you cling to Him? God presents Him in this manner, to treat Him less would be sin.

But PJ how do we know this is Jesus? Great question. In case this is all new to you, God always provides things in the OT to point to His saving actions in a person that would be the Christ, or anointed one, for God. It has long been believed that Jesus was this Christ because He fulfilled the qualifications of the servant, and He thought of Himself as this person.



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This past week you read in your reading plans from Luke. In Luke 3 the OT is used to make a prophetic connection.

**Luke 3:2-6 ESV – (Isaiah 40:3-5)**

<sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

<sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

JB sees himself personally in the book of Isaiah, in chapter 40, prior to the songs, so he is not the man in the songs, he is the one that comes before the songs to proclaim the arrival of the servant in the songs. Then in Luke 4 you saw Isaiah used again to build upon that prophecy.

**Luke 4:16-21 ESV (Isaiah 61:1-2)**

<sup>16</sup>And He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was His custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”



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<sup>20</sup> And He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

On that day when Jesus showed up at the synagogue in His hometown the prescribed, already picked out reading, was from Isaiah 61. Jesus said that’s me. This quote comes after the four songs of the servant (Isaiah 42-53). Jesus knew the OT, knew the book of Isaiah, knew where this passage fell, and here He says, those songs are about me, I am the Christ. The people knew it too, that’s what made them upset.

The Lord YAHWEH presented Jesus to His hometown that week, someone lowly, someone that would be the only one that could please God, the one who would lay down His life for His people. Yet they loved Him not, for you see Jesus took away their attempts at being prideful, their desire to try and save themselves by their own works, Jesus removed all attempts to please God because there is no way to do it in your life. They were trying **to read Isaiah as if they were loyal servant**, when in reality Jesus IS the chosen one.

You see God presents the only person that can help us, the perfect prophet, priest and King, and that’s not you. To have Hope this year, you have to confront your desires that you are able to save yourself. This past year did you spend time boasting in self, building up your pride, trying to have a better year built in your works, schemes, and plans. If you want to experience the Hope of Christmas, then you must lay all that down and come to Him as God presents Him, HE IS absolutely your only Hope.

What’s more He is **bringing justice!** Have you been wronged this year? Has someone not treated you right? Do you feel that you have been put through a trash compactor of trials. Friends, scripture has never promised revenge, but it does promise that [Jesus WILL avenge](#) His people. This year accept Jesus as your defender, as your Savior, and put on Him that need to seek revenge. That feeling of being treated wrong just wears you down, makes you angry, and steals your joy. Allow Him to settle scores for He does that fairly and justly for all!



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Accept Him as God presents Him, He is the only one able to hold the Hope you need, do you receive Him that way?

**2. The Servant’s Manner.**

- <sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

Scripture says that He will not cry aloud, He won’t make a scene. The Servant doesn’t advance His mission by noisy self-advertisement, theatrical outrage, or political agitation. You don’t go looking for Jesus in the loudest churches, you find Him where the people are meek. You don’t find Jesus in the flamboyant, alternate lifestyle pushing, and irreverent churches you find Him where the people are humble. You don’t find Jesus in the radicalized, politically motivated/man pleasing, self-promoting ones either, He is to be found where they people adhere to the Word of God alone. Start at the right place folks don’t go looking for the Servant in a place that does not look like Him. Jesus doesn’t need the church to cry aloud, no, it needs to be the place where the people are sharing with others, *I was hurt but He healed me.*

Scripture says a bruised reed He will not break, or the person that is close to being extinguished He won’t snuff out your life. That’s why it matters where you go looking for Him, because you need a place where the people know how to handle someone gently in love, while at the same time not sparring the life-altering medicine of the Gospel. If you are looking for Him, Jesus is usually found in the quiet place that are more into the administering of the Gospel, not the control or mishandling of it.

**Matthew 12:15-21 ESV (Isaiah 42:1-4)**

<sup>15</sup> Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all <sup>16</sup> and ordered them not to make him known. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

- <sup>18</sup> “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,  
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.



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- I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
- <sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;
- <sup>20</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,  
until he brings justice to victory;
- <sup>21</sup> and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

Jesus removed Himself from those that were seeking to control Him. The Pharisees were seeking to manipulate Him, who He would minister to, and what He would say. Jesus’ nature is to run away from those that manipulate people with feelings, environments, and money, and He moves to the quiet places to administer the Gospel and Heal.

Friends the Servant of God holds your Hope for a better year, but be careful where you go and get it, it is not found in man or his schemes but in Christ alone among people who look like Him.

### **3. The Servant’s Certainty.**

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Here’s what warms my heart this season. It does not matter the type of year I had nor how discouraged I get, God’s chosen servant NEVER grows faint, and NEVER is discouraged. Why? Because He has faith in what He was called to do, to bring this world into subjection to Him.

### **Philippians 2:10-11 ESV**

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus believes in the plans of the Father; He is fueled by God’s zealous passion and the collective will and force of the Divine Trinity that are all



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working towards a goal they established and foreknew before the creation of the World! There is a goal in sight and a victory to be won that the evil in the world cannot take away. **The servant WILL PREVAIL!**

Family why do I want to put all my Hope in Jesus? Because this servant never quits, He never rests, neither is He moved nor frustrated with conflict. That’s good to know because I can be very taxing with my sin how about you? I mean people lose their patience with me, I cannot make everyone happy, as I am conforming into His image, and neither can you. It is good to know that the servant is patient with me and will not be discouraged until my heart is conquered for His glory.

Then that last phrase leads into the big next point. It foreshadows the promises for all nations, this justice being taken to the coastlands, that’s where the Gentiles were living.

#### **4. The Servant’s Commissioning God.**

- <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:
- <sup>6</sup> “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,
- <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

The servant is commissioned by the Father to take the message now that **God Saves Sinners**, into all the world, not just Israel. He calls the unrepentant people of the world in righteousness. It means as we see in the Gospel, God calls people not by converting to them to Judaism but [calls through the gift of faith](#). People will believe and the belief shows they have been made righteous. Those people Isaiah says God will keep THROUGH the servant which gives his life as a COVENANT, an eternal promise. This IS the light of Christmas, Hope in a God that will save people from all nations, through faith, based on the covenant purchasing blood of the one servant. That action is



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what sets the captives free! The proclamation of these great truths is what brings people out of the darkness of mind into light. Those of you in this room that have been converted you know this to be true. The illumination of His love for you and the fact that a death was provided for you, it changed you, didn't it!? You were touched by the servant because of His commissioning by the Father. Which the Apostles agreed upon in Acts:

**Acts 13:47-48 ESV (Isaiah 42:6)**

<sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us (Paul & Barnabas in Antioch), saying,

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

The servant is holding all our Hopes this year, for He was commissioned to do so, to save sinners like you and me! While Christmas is a celebration of these facts though, it also always points to more! As in, you have received your king BUT the King, the servant, is still not done!

**5. The Servant’s Glory and the ‘New Things’.**

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Listen family along with all these truth bombs today know this. If you put your hope in man, this year it will fail you. Man cannot save you; his politics cannot save you; his entertainment cannot save you, his attempts at a more comfortable life will not save you. God will not empower them to do so, for God alone **gets the glory** for this plan, this servant, this SALVATION. In other words, family, I love you, but don't spent time searching for joy in man-made things but seek the Hope that is only found in Christ.



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You see Christmas was not meant to save you, so don't put stock on the event we call the *Holidays*. Don't do that, that's where the world gets you. Buy this to be happy, go here to be happy, be with family to be happy, eat these things to be happy, experience these things to be happy, all of it the world has highjacked to bring false glory to itself. These are creature comforts not satisfying saviors!

The Hope we find in Christmas is yes, the servant HAS come, and He HAS saved you, but the whole event, this first ADVENT, is to start putting your Hope in something that is still to come. It is to build bigger dreams, greater expectations, a Christmas Day that never ends and has all the trimmings in which you will never not be unsatisfied with it. The old will pass away, the new will come, and God is going to tell you what it is.

**Revelation 21:1-4 ESV**

**The New Heaven and the New Earth**

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

God declared to us through Isaiah, a servant would come, he would be His chosen, He would save sinners, He would be for all nations, and it would be an everlasting covenant. He told us about it in Isaiah and it happened - the dream came true!

Now again God declares to us a people, still waiting. He Has prepared a day where He will send back the Servant. The servant will establish a physical Kingdom on earth, we WILL be there, we WILL experience the Golden Age of the Kingdom, and IT WILL NEVER END! This is what Advent gives us, the



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Hope that the BEST is still to come! God has declared it, it will happen, people of HCC receive your Hope!

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

- **Come to Christ as the bruised Reed.**
- **Come to Christ with expectations and celebration.** (Devotions with family)
- **Give Christ to others as the only source of Hope.**

**MP:**

**This Servant of God is able to hold your hope.**

Family, I pray you have tasted Hope again this morning, may we all find in Him this year what we truly need, a glimpse of the better that is still to come for those that love Him and call Him Lord.

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**Matthew 26:26-29 ESV**

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the<sup>[b]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. As the servant of God, He lived in the first Advent in a way that would bring us Hope. When we eat of His body it means I accept that He lived a life I was called to but unwilling to accomplish. He took up the cause to glorify God, and now by eating the bread we confess we needed Him to do it. His



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work has gained our freedom, and His service has bought us peace. Praise Him for His devotion to God.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. The servant came to establish that covenant by the giving of His blood for the forgiveness of sin. As Jesus was the BEST servant, the sacrifice was found acceptable, the blood was found pure, and sin is cast off from His people forever! And in exchange He gives us the Hope of a day where even the taint of sin will be removed in the everlasting City of God. Praise be to Him for His everlasting love!

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

**LBCF 1689 Chapter 8 Paragraph 4. Jesus' Atoning Work.**

Jesus willingly accepted the office of Mediator. 21 In order to fulfill it, he was born under the law. 22 He perfectly fulfilled the law and suffered the punishment we deserved, which we should have endured and suffered. 23 He was made sin and a curse for us. 24 He endured extremely serious sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body. 25 He was crucified and died, and remained in a state of death, but his body did not decay. 26 On the third day, he rose from the dead 27 with the same body in which he suffered. 28 In this body, he also ascended into heaven, 29 where he sits at the right hand of his Father and intercedes. 30 He will return to judge humanity and angels at the end of the age. 31

21. Psalms 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:5-10; John 10:18

22. Galatians 4:4; Matthew 3:15

23. Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18

24. 2 Corinthians 5:21

25. Matthew 26:37, 38; Luke 22:44; Matthew 27:46

26. Acts 13:37



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27. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

28. John 20:25, 27

29. Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11

30. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 9:24

31. Acts 10:42; Romans 14:9-10; Acts 1:11; 2 Peter 2:4

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father, that has blessed us with the gift of His Son so that we may have Hope.

Go in the name of the Son, that has blessed us with the gift of His life granting the justice that needed to be served.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the truth of the faithful servant, now go and share this Hope with a world that desperately needs it!



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