

## Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world  
and grow disciples for Jesus



## Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

### **Background:**

The books of Isaiah (There are three: one written prior to the exile, one during the exile, and the third on the return from the exile.) speak to a nation having to reorient their understanding of God. As a prophet, Isaiah can count on conflicting with the king. The kings believed they were the instrument of God's reign. The prophets challenge this concept. Their task is not so much to predict the future, but to point out what is wrong and how this will end if there is no change. To say 'yes' to this call is to willingly embrace this challenge.

### **Theology Connection:**

The sense of call is not restricted to prophets or priests. In baptism we celebrate that God's Holy Spirit is at work in each of God's people. In the liturgy of our baptism we take on this call not only to be faithful to God, but to work for justice and peace in the world. In baptism we are reminded of the promise of God's grace and given the challenge to utilize the gifts God has given us to proclaim in word and deed such grace for the sake of all.

### **Application:**

While we may not have had such a vision in our lives as did Isaiah, we can likely recall a moment when we sensed that we were given a task that was far bigger than what we could accomplish by our own ability. Perhaps it was a project at work, or maybe it was parenting our children. Maybe it was sitting at the bedside of a loved one who was suffering. Knowing our own limitations and the expectations of others we eagerly sought God's guidance and help. Do we have to wait, however, for such a big event? Can we begin each day asking for God's help?

### **The Text: Isaiah 6: 1-8**

6 <sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty,  
the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

## ADULT

Throughout the Old Testament we are witnesses to God's call upon the hearts of his leaders. In chapter 6, Isaiah is in the temple and witnesses a vision of God's exaltation. His own sense of authority or pride is stripped away by the majesty of the Lord. Indeed, he has been given a mission to go to the people of Israel to offer prophetic judgment regarding their impending doom. Unlike the Jonah story from the previous week, there appears to be no opportunity to make amends. Yet, behind the doom and gloom of the prophets there is always a promise of restoration.

What does restoration look like to you today? While Israel was unwilling or unable to repent (turn around), how might God want you/us to make a change in our direction today? Would it be possible to put together a list of those 'things' that need to change in your life that would have you more aligned with God?

---

## Youth

Please read Isaiah 6:1-8

God is calling Isaiah to be a messenger to the people of Israel. In his vision, Isaiah does not hesitate. Why do you think that is?

Would you want to experience this vision or a similar one for yourself?

The text emphasizes the transcendent holiness of the God of Israel. To what extent does this reinforce your current understanding of God? Does it challenge your understanding of God?

When you think of God, is he more associated with some places rather than others? Remember in Isaiah's vision, God is associated with the Temple in Jerusalem.

Let us pray:

Dear God, teach us who you truly are and show us how we can live your will. Please help us understand your plan and where we fit into it all. In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen.

---

## CHILDREN'S

Isaiah saw God sitting on His throne, he saw His robe filling the entire temple! Isaiah saw angels flying in the temple. And he heard them calling out, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord!" The word holy means 100% pure, perfect, and set apart. God is Holy, He is unlike anything else! Then these angels said, "The whole earth is full of His glory." Glory in God's greatness! This was an amazing vision! Isaiah saw that God was alive, praised, respected, holy, and His glory is everywhere! God took away Isaiah's sins, and then asked him, "Who will I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah said, "Here I am. Send me!"

Think:

1. Have you ever felt called to something- big or small? What happened?
2. How do you know God is calling you to do something?
3. What are some ways that you can bring glory to God?

Remember:

We are all called by God and will continue to be called in big and small ways throughout our lives!

Pray:

Dear God,

Even though you may not call us in ways as big as Isaiah's call, You still call us to love you and to love our neighbors every day. Please help us to hear Your calls and give us courage to do Your work!

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen!