

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VILLA RICA, PCA
The Afflicted Exalted

Christmas Candlelight and communion service Villa Rica 2002

Isa. 61:1-11 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 Because the LORD has anointed me
 To bring good news to the afflicted;
 He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 To proclaim liberty to captives
 And freedom to prisoners;
 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, And the
 day of vengeance of our God.

This communion service is a gospel encounter, a remembrance and a celebration. We have already had food and fellowship with family and friends. Now we come to the table of the Lord. Here we see the gospel in substantive form; here there is food for the soul.

I. THE AFFLICTED EXALTED

Isaiah was given the Word of the Lord about the meaning of Christ's coming. We have read just a few verses but in those few verses we have the glorious, good news of the promise of the coming of One who would exalt the brokenhearted, lift up and revive the heart of the afflicted, transform the mind and heart of the disconsolate to praise and joy.

When Jesus began his public ministry he went to the synagogue and read these words from the prophet Isaiah. He sat down and said; today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. (Luke 4:21)

Flashback about thirty years to Bethlehem and you find this man coming to earth as a baby boy. His arrival was told to the shepherds in the field and they were told by an angel not to be afraid because he had great good news that would be for all people, for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Isaiah prophesied this great event and the scripture we have read today attests to the fact that this will indeed be an event that will exalt the afflicted. His coming will alleviate the distress and misery of mankind. Only by his arrival can man know God's redemption and reconciliation to Himself.

II. The Table of the Lord Is a Remembrance

- A. Of his coming.
- B. Of his atoning death, bodily resurrection and ascension back to the Father
- C. Of God's mercy to sinners
- D. Of his blessing to all who believe.
- E. The bread represents the eternal life he has and gives to us.
- F. This cup represents His blood shed for the remission of our sins and the joy of Lord He brings.

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