**SERMON NOTES**

**Christmas 2023**

**“For Unto Us A Child Is Born, To Us A Son Is Given”**

**Isaiah 9: 6-7**

**The backdrop of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ message is the reality of a gloomy and despairing time in the life of God’s people. It was a time of darkness where it was *always winter but never Christmas*.**

**Isaiah’s message is not only one of the necessary judgement of God but also one of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, forgiveness, and reconciliation to God for sinners through the coming of the Messiah.**

***“For unto us a child is born”* means that the child is born unto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Christ is born for me”.**

**With the exception of sin, this child born – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - stepped into the full reality of what we all know as humans.**

**The Hebrew word for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in verse 6 is a word that is always used in scripture to describe the ways God acts and works.**

**Nothing you fear, nothing in your life, moves beyond the power of this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.**

**This child who has not yet entered the world, taken breath in His lungs, or cried the new born cry - and will not for several hundred years after these words are spoken - is at the same time eternal and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**We could have been told any number of wonderful things that this child will ultimately be for us but astonishingly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the things that God wants you to see.**

**The great and profound need met in Christmas is that God made His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with us.**

**It is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, passion, fervor, and the great pursuit of God to send this child for you.**

Blanks: Isaiah’s; hope; me; Jesus; wonderful; mighty; everlasting; father; peace; zeal;

Congregational Reading – Romans 8: 31 - 34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can beagainst us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.